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REMAINS

HISTORICAL & LITERARY

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TOWARDS A

HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT

PARISH OF PRESTBURY,

IN CHESHIRE.

BY

FRANK RENAUD, M.D.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
M.DCCC.LXXVI.

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ERRATA.

Page 20, *for* Newton township *read* Butley township.
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,, 31, ,, posticon *read* porticon.
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PREFACE.

IN undertaking to write the following book for publication amongst the Transactions of the CHETHAM SOCIETY, I have endeavoured to add something to the antiquarian, topographical, and genealogical information concerning the ancient Parish of Prestbury, in Cheshire, without needlessly repeating the recorded facts and observations of preceding historians, of whom Dr. Ormerod is pre-eminently the chief.

Furthermore, it has seemed to me best to make a selection from the materials at my disposal, rather than attempt to crowd too many details into the compass of a small volume; the more especially so as some districts, and some families, have already received a more ample and a more reliable historical treatment than others. Nearly all the present materials were collected, in intervals of leisure, between the years 1853 and 1858. At this time some detached papers were read before "the Rosicrucian Brotherhood," and afterwards printed anonymously in the *Manchester Guardian* newspaper, amongst the published proceedings of that select and short-lived, but very pleasant antiquarian society.

As the ancient and royal forest of Macclesfield once embraced half the area of Prestbury parish, and rivalled, if it did not surpass, in importance the manorial and ecclesiastical sub-divisions during the feudal times, I have spared no pains to collect together—even at the risk of some repetition—such scattered details as yet remain concerning its former government, boundaries, courts, and officers; and, in order that this part of the present volume may be made more readable and interesting, I have prefixed to it a very brief summary of laws by which royal forests generally were governed in the Saxon, Norman, and feudal periods.

As the mother church of Prestbury was intimately connected with the parent monastery of St. Werburg at Chester, and used to exercise undisputed ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the thirty-five townships into which the parish was then divided, its history supplies a running commentary on many of the events that have happened in the district for the space of seven centuries, or more. Architecturally, Prestbury parish church cannot vie with many Cheshire churches in stateliness; but it possesses the peculiar characteristic of exhibiting every style of ecclesiastical detail from the Norman to the post-reformation period. The churches of Macclesfield and Gawsworth are more than ordinarily rich in monumental and heraldic art; but, as their interior embellishments have been described in the *Harleian MSS.* and in other local histories, I have not thought it necessary to include them, and have contented myself with the more humble task of

describing and delineating the armorial shields with which their towers are enriched, and which have remained unnoticed hitherto. An explanation of these armorial shields —many of which are fast going to decay—supplies alike a proximate date to the building of the respective churches, and furnishes a convenient medium for introducing the names, offices, and localities of former benefactors and patrons, the majority of whom are either extinct or have ceased to exercise their former influence within the parish; for here, as elsewhere, many families of importance, and some of historic influence, have passed away through the vicissitudes of time and circumstance, whilst a few yet remain as mesne lords of the soil, whose ancestors were men of worship and renown as early as the days of the Plantagenet kings.

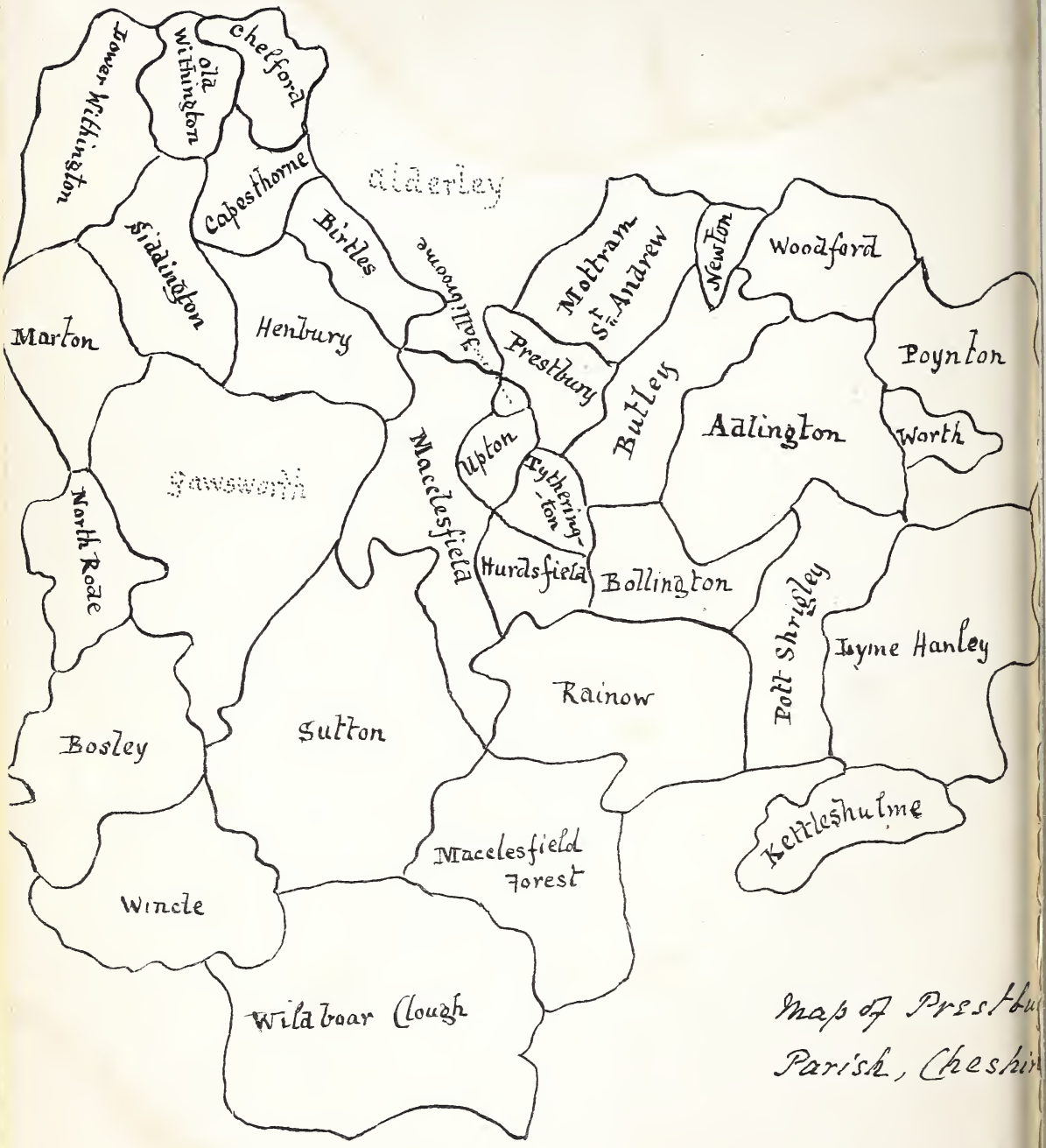
Of the families of Stafford, Savage, Brereton, Fitton, Sutton, and Downes, little remains save the shadow of their former greatness; whilst the forest moorlands continue to be represented by the noble house of Stanley; and the townships of Poynton, Capesthorne, Adlington, and Lyme Hanley, by worthy scions of an ancient stock.

Like all others who have been similarly occupied, it becomes alike my duty and pleasure to acknowledge, with many thanks, the aid I have received from numerous friends, and the help I have had from the perusal of unpublished manuscripts. From Charles R. B. Legh, Esq., of Adlington, and the late Thomas Legh, Esq., of Lyme, I have received many aids. My thanks are also due to W. Bromley-Davenport, Esq., for a perusal of the

"robber roll" preserved amongst the archives at Capesthorne. To the Rev. Canon RAINES I offer acknowledgments for access to some of his *MS.* collections. To RICHARD WOOD, Esq., I am grateful for the unreserved use of his *Cheshire MS.*, compiled in the early part of the 17th century, from which, *inter alia*, I have extracted several short transcripts of deeds relating to local family histories. To J. C. ANTROBUS, Esq., of Eaton, I am indebted for a copy of the transfer of Macclesfield manor house from the Staffords to the Stanleys. The Rev. Canon WILSON, the present vicar of Prestbury, has supplied me with many parochial details; whilst to his predecessor, the Rev. W. PEARSON, I owe the arrangement of the wardens' accounts, &c., preserved at Prestbury. I have had the advantage of comparing my pedigree of the early Leghs of Lyme with one that had been separately and independently drawn out by W. BEAMONT, Esq., of Warrington, and of finding that they exactly corresponded; and my best thanks are due to Mr. BEAMONT for making me familiar with several details in the family history of the Leghs of Lyme of a later date. As it would be impossible to complete even a small volume like the present one without making frequent reference to Dr. Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, so it would be as ungracious as culpable were I to omit my acknowledgments to this author for all the information that is to be gleaned from out his well-stored volumes.

FRANK RENAUD, M.D.

Manchester,
November 17th, 1875.



Map of Prestbu
Parish, Cheshi

THE

ANCIENT PARISH OF PRESTBURY,

IN CHESHIRE.

OF PRESTBURY PARISH GENERALLY.

THE parish of Prestbury in Cheshire, is of considerable extent, being fourteen miles long, and ten miles broad. It is situated in the hundred of Macclesfield ; and at the present time includes thirty-three townships, viz : Prestbury, Butley, Mottram-St.-Andrew, Tytherington, Upton, Fallibrome, Macclesfield, Hurdsfield, Woodford, Adlington, Poynton, Worth, Newton, Bollington, Lyme Hanley, Pott-Shrigley, Ranow, Kettleshulme, Taxall, Macclesfield Forest, Sutton, Wincle, Wildboarclough, Bosley, North Rode, Marton, Siddington, Henbury, Birtles, Chelford, Capesthorne, Old Withington, and Lower Withington. Alderley and Gawsworth townships once formed integral parts of Prestbury parish.

The accompanying map, reduced by the Rev. Canon Wilson from the larger one used by the Poor-Law Guardians in 1858, will give a better geographical idea of the parish than any description.

In the Domesday Survey, mention is made of twelve townships only, viz : Adlington, Butley, Mottram, Macclesfield, Gawsworth, Henbury, Chelford, Capesthorne, Siddington, Marton, North Rode, and Bosley.

When the survey was made, seven of the above-named townships were in the possession of Hugh Lupus, two were held by Bigot, one by Hugh de Mara, and two by Saxon free men.

The annexed account of Prestbury parish, tabulated from statements furnished by the Domesday Survey, will show the occupation, extent, taxation, relative value, and general condition of the twelve townships much better than a lengthy description :

In this table the extent and quality of the land in Capesthorne and Henbury are omitted; but, in the remaining ten townships it amounts to 51 carucates, or 5,100 acres.

The taxable land in the twelve townships amounted to 1,500 acres, or 15 hides. The value of Adlington, Butley, Macclesfield, and Siddington, came to 47*s.* Before the devastation caused by the conquest of England, the value of these lands amounted to nearly 21*l.* Adlington had the largest proportion of taxable land for its area; and next to Adlington, Mottram. The wood is not computed in the three townships of Henbury, Capesthorne, and Chelford; but the sum total for the nine remaining townships is 20,000 yards and 20 perches in length, by 12,500 in width, or more than 11 miles of length, and 7 of breadth. Eight townships out of the twelve are declared waste. The steady increase of meadow land in Butley is accounted for by the fact that Hugh Lupus had given it to his son Robert before the time of the completion of the survey. About one half of Prestbury Parish was included within the precincts of the royal forest of Macclesfield. No mention of Prestbury, by name, is made in the survey, but at the time of the completion of this invaluable work, many vills which were waste and desolate were omitted; and many churches also, which had been destroyed by the Normans. The most reasonable conjecture is that Prestbury township was included in that of Butley, and partially so in Mottram-Andrew.

The population of Prestbury Parish, in 1811, when Corry wrote the *History of Macclesfield*, amounted to 36,423 persons, of whom 22,000 and more were males, and 14,000 and more females. 24,000 persons were engaged in agricultural pursuits, and 1,500 in manufactures and trades. There were 1,346 inhabited houses in the parish, exclusive of Macclesfield, in which latter there were 3,864. 1,500 families in the whole parish were engaged in agricultural pursuits, 244 only of whom resided in Macclesfield. 3,763 families were employed in trade and manufactures, nearly 2,500 of whom dwelt in Macclesfield.

The census of 1851 gave the following information regarding

An account of Prestbury Parish, tabulated from Statements furnished by the Domesday Survey.

Name of Township.	Occupants at time of survey.	Former Occupants.	Extent of land.	How much taxed.	Value in time of Edward the Confessor.	Value at time of survey.	Wood (in yards).	
Macclesfield .	Hugh Lupus.	Saxon Earl Edwin.	10 Carucates.	2 Hides.	£8.	20 Shillings.	6000 long, 4000 wide.	Lord's mill. Third penny of hundred belonged to this manor, which had 7 hays.
Adlington ...	Do.	Do.	Do.	4½ Hides.	£8.	20 Shillings.	2000 long, 2000 wide.	Was formerly waste; but now has 21 acres of meadow, 7 hays, and 4 eyries for hawks.
Gawsworth ...	Do.	Bernulf.	6 Carucates.	1 Hide.	20 Shillings.	Waste.	2000 long, 2000 wide.	Had two hays.
Chelford	Do.	Brun.	2 Carucates.	½ Hide.	Waste.	Waste.	.....	
Henbury	Do.	.....	.....	½ Hide.	Waste.	Waste.	.....	
Capesthorne .	Do.	.....	.....	½ Hide.	Waste.	Waste.	.....	
Butley	Uluric, and afterwards Robert, son of Hugh Lupus.	Uluric and Hundin.	5 Carucates.	1 Hide.	30 Shillings.	2 Shillings.	3000 long, 1000 wide.	In time of Edward the Confessor there were 2½ acres of meadow; in Uluric's time 7 acres; and in Robert's time 12 acres, also a hay.
Mottram	Gamel (son).	Gamel (father).	4 Carucates.	1½ Hide.	.....	Waste.	3000 long, 2000 wide.	Had two hays, and an eyrie of hawks.
Bosley	Hugh de Mara.	Godric.	4 Carucates.	½ Hide.	20 Shillings.	Waste.	2000 long, 500 wide.	
Marton	Hugh Lupus.	Do.	1 Carucate.	1 Rod (virgate).	Waste.	Waste.	20 perches in length.	
Siddington ...	Bigot.	Brun.	7 Carucates.	1½ Hide.	20 Shillings.	5 Shillings.	1000 long, 500 wide.	
Rode ..... (North Rode)	Do.	Bernulf.	2 Carucates.	½ Hide.	8 Shillings.	Waste.	1000 long, 500 wide.	

Prestbury Parish: The area comprised 63,125 statute acres, on which 59,265 persons dwelt, being rather less than one to the acre. The census of 1871 gave 64,100 inhabitants, viz.: 28,650 for the rural districts, and 35,450 for the borough of Macclesfield.

The following table shows what was the number of acres, and the numerical strength of the population in each township, in the year 1851. If the townships of Macclesfield, Hurdsfield, Sutton, and Bollington are withdrawn, the population of the remaining townships is found to be as one person to four acres of land. In the four town districts, it averages five persons to each acre of land:—

Township.	Acres.	Population.
Prestbury	620	373
Poynton	2,490	1,247
Worth	450	885
Woodford	1,499	430
Newton	500	122
Adlington	3,350	1,104
Butley	1,500	709
Mottram-St.-Andrew	1,600	408
Fallibrome	241	28
Upton	447	111
Tytherington	993	374
Hurdsfield	860	4,016
Bollington	1,184	4,655
Pott-Shrigley	1,719	467
Lyme Hanley	3,920	264
Kettleshulme	1,207	352
Rainow	5,750	1,605
Macclesfield Forest	4,000	269
Macclesfield	2,110	29,648
Sutton	4,460	7,525
Wildboarclough	4,980	447
Wincle	1,980	336
Bosley	3,180	568
North Rode	1,520	227
Marton	1,947	313
Siddington	2,141	459
Henbury	1,400	464
Birtles	460	65
Capesthorne	748	138
Chelford	290	263
Lower Withington	2,265	570
Old Withington	1,840	189

Churches, and Chapels of Ease, in Prestbury Parish.

In 1291, when the taxation of Pope Nicholas was made, Prestbury parish church was the only Ecclesiastical building named, and was valued at 26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Marton, Siddington, and Poynton chapels of ease were built during the decorated period of Gothic architecture; and the churches of Macclesfield, Gawsworth, and Alderley, in the best periods of Perpendicular Gothic architecture. Disley, Bosley, and Pott-Shrigley churches were built in the later periods of Perpendicular Gothic architecture. Of the chapels of Newton, Poynton, and Adlington it is less easy to speak, as the originals have long since gone to decay. These, together with Wincle church, were in existence when Sir P. Leicester's history was published in 1669. At this time there were domestic chapels in the halls of Lyme, Sutton, and Handforth.

When Bishop Gastrell made a visitation of his diocese in 1707, there were twelve churches and chapels of ease in the thirty townships comprising Prestbury parish. Newton chapel was in ruins. Neither Wincle, Poynton, Capesthorne, Adlington, nor Chapel-in-the-Forest, had settled maintenances. The endowments of the remaining seven churches and chapels of ease amounted collectively to 256*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*

There were only seven schools in the parish, viz.: Macclesfield grammar school, with a royal charter; Prestbury school, with the interest of 100*l.* to teach ten poor children; Chelford, with the interest of 2*l.* 10*s.* for the teaching of one poor child; Marton, with the interest of 12*l.* for teaching three poor children; Pott, with an endowment of 6*l.* annually; Poynton, with no certain sum; and Siddington, with an annual endowment of 8*l.*

Bishop Gastrell passes over in silence the three domestic chapels of Lyme, Sutton, and Handforth. He notes the fact that the churches of Alderley and Gawsworth once formed integral parts of Prestbury parish, and adds that Gawsworth was

independent in 1500. The following extracts from St. Werburg's Chartulary, made by Mr. Croston, seem to show that both Gawsworth and Taxall churches were partially independent of the mother church more than a century sooner:

"In the year 1382 the abbot and monks ceded to John Caxton, the then parson of Gawsworth, the privilege of burying his parishioners, on paying to them a moiety of the dues within ten days after each burial; and a proviso was added that any parishioner of Gawsworth might be buried at Prestbury, without any claim on the part of the rector of Gawsworth.

"In 1377 the abbot and monks ceded to the rector of Taxall, John Shalcross, the right to bury his parishioners, and to receive mortuaries and other oblations, claimed as the immemorial right of the parish of Prestbury."

Alderley parish now consists of the townships of Nether Alderley, Over Alderley, and Great Warford, and contains more than 5,000 acres of land in all. An acknowledgment of *2s.* yearly was made to the rector or vicar when Alderley ceased to be an integral part of Prestbury parish. The registers begin in 1629.

Bishop Gastrell's notes of church visitations made in 1707 and later, and published in the Chetham Society's transactions, are very valuable as showing the number of churches, endowments, schools, &c., in the diocese of Chester, at the beginning of the eighteenth century; and as no history of Prestbury parish can be complete without a knowledge of these details, I make no hesitation in transcribing them, together with the careful and valuable notes made by the Rev. Canon Raines, in 1834. To these will be added such further information as will bring the ecclesiastical and educational state of the parish down to the present time.

Prestbury.

In 1707, "Prestbury church was valued at 140*l.* per annum, derived from glebe land and great tithes of four townships. The school was erected in 1707. The patronage formerly

belonged to John, baron of Montalt of Hawarden, in right of his manor of Poynton, which he had with Ellen his wife, widow of Robert de Stokeport. It was appropriated by the bishop of Coventry in the time of King John or Henry III., reserving ten marks to the vicar. Rectory and patronage of the vicarage given, after the dissolution of the monastery, to the dean and chapter of Chester by charter. Patron, Mr. Legh, of Adlington."

1834. "Church dedicated to Saint Peter; value 450*l.* per annum. Registers begin in 1520, but are imperfect till 1720. From 22nd Elizabeth the manor and advowson have passed with the Adlington estate."

Adlington.

1717. "Certified that nothing certain belongs to it. It is mentioned as a chapel of ease by Sir P. Leicester, but now is claimed to be domestic by Mr. Legh. Wardens were sworn in 1675, 1674, 1673, and 1672. The curate was suspended in 1672."

In the account of the family of Legh of Adlington, mention has been made of the license granted to Robert Legh to keep a chaplain to say mass, &c., in the reign of Henry VI. The Rev. S. L. Wilson, the present vicar of Prestbury, says that there has been a private chaplain at Adlington ever since 1447, who officiated at the chantry on the manor, which was destroyed in 1565–66. There is a hiatus till 1670, when the chaplain is styled "curate." The baptisms at Adlington chapel are registered in the Prestbury books, beginning in a separate column in 1757, and ending in 1812. Marriages were solemnized in 1727.

Though the chapel now forms an integral part of Adlington hall, it was separate till the time of Mr. Charles Legh, and used to stand in the "chapel field." It was a small structure consisting of nave and chancel, having a bell turret over the western entrance. A representation of it is preserved in a picture in Adlington hall. Two schools have lately been built in Adlington township, viz., St. Stephens, at Whitley Green, in 1857, and St. John's, at Wood Lanes, in 1859.

Bosley.

1707. "Parochial chapel distant six miles from the mother church. Certified 3*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*"

1834. "Patron saint unknown. Value 110*l.* Registers begin in 1728."

Bosley chapelry has an area of 3,500 acres, and had 588 inhabitants in 1852. The church was rebuilt in 1777, and consisted of a low embattled stone tower, and brick nave. A chancel was added in 1834, and in 1839 the schools were built by subscription at a cost of 400*l.* The parsonage was built in 1853 at a cost of 1098*l.* The vicar of Prestbury is patron of the living.

The original church of Bosley was a structure dating back to the 14th or 15th century. Dugdale, in *Church Notes*, gives a fragmentary inscription in stained glass dated 1450. The body of the church was half timbered. There are four bells in the tower, of different dates. One, cast by Abraham Rudhall in 1663, is inscribed "Glory to God in the highest;" another, cast in 1756, is inscribed "Prosperity to the Church of England;" and another, "Peace and good neighbourhood."

In 1669, when the Uniformity Act was in operation, Sir Jeoffrey Shakerly pulled Mr. John Garside out of the pulpit because he would not read the *Book of Sports*, and had him conveyed to Chester and imprisoned.

Amongst the benefactions is one by the Rev. H. Thornley, in 1764, for providing a Bible to a poor person who could read, in the townships of Bosley, North Rode, Pott-Shrigley, Wildboarclough, and Wincle, in Prestbury parish, and Rushton Spencer, in Staffordshire. The registers for burials begin in 1684; those for baptisms in 1728; and for marriages in 1729.

Bosley is the only township in Prestbury parish which was vested in the crown independently of the local earldom. It belonged to Hugh de Mara, and passed in 1327 to Isabel, mother of Edward III., and continued vested in the Crown for 124 years.

After Henry VI. the manor passed to the Stanleys, and in 1520 was held by Lord Monteagle, from whose son it passed to the Fittons of Gawsworth, in 1540, and is now vested in their successors, the Earls of Harrington.

Capeston (Capesthorne).

1723. "Certified that nothing belongs to it. This is a new chappell lately built by John Ward, Esq., who has given all the tithes of this township towards its augmentation. Augmented by governors of Queen Ann's bounty in 1722. Augmented again in 1723 with 200*l.*, which Mr. Ward gave out of Mrs. Barton's money."

1834. "Dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Value 76*l.* Registers begin in 1722."

Marriages solemnized in 1727 (S. L. Wilson). This is a domestic chapel.

Chelford-cum-Withington.

1707. "Certified 12*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, paid by the dean and chapter of Chester. Made parochial in 1674. In 1267 Robert Pigot gave this village (Chelford), with the lordship and rent of Astall and Withington, to the Abbey of St. Werburg, provided they found a chaplain to say mass in this chappell three days a week, and the other four days at St. Nicholas altar in Prestbury church, where his predecessors are buried. The chappelry consists of three hamlets, which make up a numerous congregation. Augmented in 1720, towards which Mr. William Stanley and Mr. Brooke gave 200*l.* The surplice fees go to the vicar of Prestbury. No school endowed."

1834. "Patron saint unknown. Value 135*l.* Registers begin in 1679. The living is a perpetual curacy in the gift of Thomas Dixon, Esq., of Astle."

Thomas Smallwood left interest of 2*s.* 10*s.* for educating a poor child. In 1754 a school was built for the townships of Chelford, Astle, and Lower Withington. The Charity Commis-

sioners reported in 1848 that there was "a school in Chelford upon a charitable foundation in which from fifteen to twenty children are educated."

Chapel-in-the-Forest.

1707. "This chapel is not consecrated. Certified that there is no certain maintenance for a minister, only some small allowance from Lord Derby and the inhabitants of the township, when anybody preaches there."

1834. "Patron saint unknown. Value 60*l.* a year. Registers begin in 1759. No marriage register."

Chapel-in-the-Forest and Wildboarclough are now conjoined, the same minister doing duty at both. There yet remains a stone altar in the chapel which speaks of its pre-reformation existence.

Macclesfield.

1716. "Certified 50*l.* paid formerly by the Crown, out of revenues arising within the county. The grant of 50*l.* per year was made by James I. in the 3rd year of his reign, during pleasure. Confirmed by new grants till corporation was dissolved about 1720. Macclesfield was made a body corporate in the 37th Elizabeth. Families at least 2,000 in town and precincts, in 1705.

"Macclesfield is a parochial chapelry, and has the following townships, viz.: Macclesfield, Chapel-le-Forest, Wildboarclough, Pot-Shrigley, Ranow, Hurdsfield, Sutton-c.-Winkle, Kettlesholm, and Downes.

"Macclesfield has a free grammar school, erected and endowed by Edward VI., anno. reg. 6th. The upper master has 50*l.* per annum certain, and 10*l.* more at the discretion of the governors. The lands given by King Edward were part of the possessions of the college of St. John, Chester."

1834. "Macclesfield parochial chapel, dedicated to St. Michael. Value 214*l.* Registers begin in 1572. The church was founded

by Eleanor, queen of Edward I., about the year 1278, and was decreed by the king to be subject to the mother church of Prestbury, which it still continues to be."

Christ's Church is a perpetual curacy attached to St. Michael's, built by Christopher Wroe in 1775, and endowed by rent with 100*l.*, and 40*l.* from Queen Anne's bounty, and further, by will of Christopher Wroe, grandson of the founder, with 6,000*l.* The registers are kept at St. Michael's. A school is attached to St. Michael's, and to Christ church, the latter having been built in 1841 and endowed with 30*l.* for the education of twenty children, and 5*l.* for books.

These two are ecclesiastical and educational establishments belonging to Macclesfield township proper; but within the borough boundary there are four others, viz., St. Paul's, St. Peter's. St. George's, and St. James's, the three latter being in Sutton township.

St. Paul's church, built under Sir Robert Peel's Act, has a government endowment, and is alternately in the gift of the crown and the bishop of the diocese. An assistant curate is paid by the Pastoral Aid Society. The school, built in 1854, has a government grant.

St. Peter's church and schools were built in 1847, and consecrated in 1851. Government endowment under Sir Robert Peel's Act, with usual alternating gift. Registers commence in 1847. School with government grant. Parsonage recently built.

St. George's, Sutton, built originally as a dissenting chapel in 1822, and was purchased for a church in 1828 and consecrated in 1834, at which time the registers commence. Endowed with 60*l.* per annum, which, together with pew rents, made the annual income 270*l.*, which has since been augmented to 300*l.* by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The Pastoral Aid Society pays 130*l.* per annum for a curate. There is a parsonage house, also a school built in 1835. There is a school in High-street called National, and another for infants built in 1845.

St. James's chapel, Sutton, is proprietary, and was built in

1839. There is a register for burials and baptisms commencing in 1840. It is licensed only, and there is no endowment. Schools built by private subscription in 1841. The parsonage was built in 1840, and the chancel added in 1871. The population of Hurdsfield was 4,000, in a circuit of nine miles.

Hurdsfield church, dedicated to the Trinity, was built in 1837, and consecrated in 1839. The patronage rests with Miss Hindman's trustees. Registers begin in 1840. Endowment, 48*l.* 10*s.* per year, with surplice fees; together, 70*l.* Parsonage built in 1853; schools in 1841. A curate and scripture reader, paid by the Pastoral Aid Society. There are no charities.

Marton.

1707. "A parochial chapel, certified 6*l.* 19*s.* 0*d.* No settled minister, but the inhabitants provide as they can. One township, with part of Lower Withington."

1834. "Dedicated to Saint James, value 48*l.*; registers begin in 1563. Sir John Davenport granted by deed dated 1390 four messuages, and 60 acres of land, in the vill of Merton, to maintain a fit priest, celebrating Mass in the Chapel of Merton, for the souls of himself, his parents, successors, and all faithful people deceased, for ever."

Marton church was restored in 1871, and had a porch added. The tower beams and supports were all strengthened. Enough details of decorated architecture remain to warrant the conclusion that Marton chapelry existed before 1390, when the decorated style had given place to the perpendicular. Two mutilated figures of nuns, wearing the chin cloth, are still preserved in stained glass; and several encaustic tiles, with geometric tracery, have been found beneath the floor. On one the sword and keys are stamped, as if the original structure had been dedicated to another patron saint than the present.

Marton is one of the few remaining ecclesiastical buildings of the black and white style of raddle and daub, once so common in Cheshire. It has a low tower and wooden steeple. Within

there is an Elizabethan pulpit. A stumped cross, a venerable yew tree, and two mutilated stone effigies, are the most noticeable objects in the churchyard. The effigies are of the fourteenth century period, as the pointed basinets, pointed shoes, and chain armour depending from the basinets show. The heads rest on the more ponderous helmets, which are surmounted with the Davenport crest of felon's head and neck encircled with a cord. They probably refer to Sir John and Sir Vivian Davenport, and doubtless once had honourable places within the church.

The names recurring most often in the Marton registers are, Davenport, Gallimore, Henshawe, Pott, Fernihough, Lowndes, Lockett, and Lowe. At the end of 1702, "So far exhibited to the Queen's surveyors." (1 Anne.) In 1609, "God gives leave to doe well." Entries of Davenports occur from Davenport, Marton, Wheeltrough, North Rode, Henshawe, the Green, the Fields, Withington, and Henbury, justifying the old Cheshire proverb, that "there were as many Leghs as fleas, and as many Davenports as dogs' tails." The Davenports of North Rode are mentioned from 1592 to 1641.

Newton.

1707. "Entirely ruined. In 1672 a warden was sworn in for this chapel."

1834. "In the *post mortem* inquisition of Humfrey Newton of Pownall, 28 Henry VIII., it appears that he held in demesne as of fee the manor and vill of Newton, with the water mill, fulling mill, and chapel therein, from Robert Hyde, Esq., of Norbury, as of that manor, in socage, by the tender of one pair of gloves. The chapel was probably considered domestic, and an appurtenant of the manor."

In 1584, 2 Edward VI., it was certified that Newton had two bells, but no chalice.

A school was built on the edge of Newton by Mr. C. Legh, in 1874, calculated for 200 children.

Pott.

1707, "A parochial chapel within the chappellry of Macclesfield, certified 22*l.* 10*s.* This chappell was formerly endowed by the family of Downes of Shrigley with lands which would now have been worth 200*l.* per annum, but they were taken away and given to the crown, *vide* will of Geoffrey Downes, 7 Henry VII., who founded this chapel, then called Downes Chapel in Pott Shrigley. Inscription in the chapel, 'Orate pro bene valencia Galfrid Downes qui istam Capellam fieri fecit.' Augmented in 1719, 200*l.* The inhabitants of this chappelry pay to the repairs both of Prestbury church and Macclesfield chappell. A free school endowed with 6*l.* per year."

1834. "Patron saint unknown. Value 140*l.* Registers begin in 1813. They were previously entered at Prestbury. Pott was a chantry chapel, the endowments of which were seized by the crown, and two priests ejected, who, in 1566, were living upon miserable stipends."

Pott-Shrigley church is dedicated to Saint Christopher, as one of the bells indicates. In 1857 it had nave, side aisles, chancel, tower, and porch. The chancel is the best part, with low-crowned perpendicular windows and bold mouldings. Roof square-panneled, embossed with Tudor flowers. Doorway leading up to rood loft yet open, but no rood screen. Entire church of moderate proportions. Three or four years since, the nave gable and sides of choir had battlemented tops, which were pulled down during recent repairs, and replaced with triangular copings. No coats of arms on tower. Two shields of arms in stained glass in east window, one of them showing the three lions passant gardant of England, the other argent, a lion rampant gules. Both shields are borne by angels. There are only three mural tablets, all of the present century, erected to members of the Downes family. In the belfry there are three bells, inscribed as follows: On first bell, in old English characters, "Campana melodie nomen Magdalene gerit," also a shield bearing a cross with divided stem,

and on each side the letters X. & C., also a lozenge with a cross flory and a masonic mark.

The middle bell is inscribed,

> "All men that heare my mournfull sound
> Repent before you lie in ground, 1607."

Underneath the name, "An Douns," also a square within which is a cross on a calvary, the sun and moon on each side of the upper part, and on each side of the lower part the letters H. & O.

The third bell is inscribed, "Sancte Xtophore ora pro nobis." It has also the same crosses as are on the first bell, and some masonic marks.

A rude mortuary cross stands in the churchyard, quite devoid of ornamentation; and around the enclosure yew trees used to grow.

Poynton.

1707. "A parochial chapel. No certain endowment. There was anciently a pension paid out of the tithes. Now voluntary contribution of 11*l.* There are two deeds relative to the finding of a curate to officiate in this chappell, the first dated 1312, the second 1500. A chapel yard, but no burying in it. In 1703 a school built, but no endowment."

1834. "Dedicated to St. Mary. Value 34*l.* Registers begin in 1723. The present chapel of Poynton was rebuilt by Sir George Warren, who died in 1701. The original foundation was probably 1312, when the abbot of Chester granted to Nicholas de Eaton, and Joan his wife, that he would find a chaplain in the chapel of Poynton for ever, for the benefit of them and the rest of the inhabitants of Poynton (Ormerod). In the year 1500, John Veysey, vicar-general of John, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, sequestrated the tithes of Poynton belonging to the abbot of Chester, because the abbot had not found a chaplain according to agreement."

Since this time, and during the incumbency of the Rev. Robert Litler, Poynton chapel has been rebuilt in the early English style of architecture. The previous building was of a very debased style. It was consecrated in 1789, and dedicated to St. George. The still more ancient chapel of Poynton, dedicated to St. Mary, stood on a different site, and consisted of nave, aisles, and chancel. It stood near to the "Towers," which is the site of the former hall, destroyed by fire; and was within the park grounds. Sir George Warren, with the bishop's consent, caused it to be pulled down, after which he built the chapel consecrated in 1789, out of materials previously used in the construction of a farmhouse. The bell was swung in an oak tree adjoining, till Lord Bulkeley, who married Sir George's only daughter, added a small tower and spire, and so found a home for the bell. There were great yew trees all round the old churchyard. (Test. Rev. R. Litler.)

The document mentioned by Canon Raines is as follows:— "August 15, 1741. Whereas in the lordship of Poynton, in the county of Chester, is situate an ancient parochial chapel,—it hath been a chapel time out of mind, 5 Edward II., in the year of our Lord 1312, in which year Sir Nicholas d'Eton lord of Poynton brought an assize darrein against the abbot of St. Werburge, Chester, for the advowson of this chapel in this cause, the abbot got a verdict, by a deed dated the same year he bound himself and successors to find a chaplain at Poynton for ever, for the benefit of Sir Nicholas d'Eton, and his heirs, and tenants, the abbot neglecting to find a chaplain in the year 1500, the archdeacon sequestrated the tythes, and in the sequestration it was called a parochial chapel 'Capella de Poynton jura parochialia habentem,' and in another deed of Edward IV.'s time it is called 'Ecclesiam Beatæ Mariæ de Poynton,' and mentions the high altar there, and there hath been all along probably from the first foundation, a chapel warden yearly chosen and sworn, but how, or by whom this chapel was anciently repaired, and ornaments and other necessaries found, do not now appear, for it hath been

vacant beyond the memory of any man now living till about the year 1699, during which vacancy the said chapel standing near the manor house of Poynton, the lords of the manor and their ancestors (as supposed) did such repairs to it as they thought fit to prevent its falling into decay. But soon after the said chapel was supplied with a curate; and in or about the year 1716, John Warren, Esq., then lord of the manor of Poynton aforesaid being satisfied by the registers of the chancellor's and archdeacon's writs, he was not obliged to repair it at his own charge, and thereupon saving to himself and his heirs the nomination of a minister, the lordships of Poynton and Worth have since repaired the said chapel and chancel, and found ornaments, utensils, and necessaries, the said John Warren and his heirs only paying his own or their proportionate parts, with the inhabitants of Poynton and Worth who claim to have seats in the said chapel. And whereas the said chancel this present year has been new built at the charge of the lordships of Poynton and Worth," &c. (The remainder of the clause apportions the seats on the north side of the chancel to certain parties in Poynton, and on the south side to those in Worth.)

"Also at the said vestry meeting it was agreed that there shall be assessed, collected, and paid, through the lordships of Poynton and Worth, the sum of 40*l.* payable to the present chapel warden for the service of the present year, for workmen's wages, &c., and every particular person inhabiting, or holding lands within the said chapelry to pay the several sums as shall be annexed to their several names for the uses aforesaid."

The baptismal registers began in 1723, and yet continue. The register for marriages began also in 1723 and ended in 1753, during the curacy of Mr. Thompson. The register for burials began in 1840. The earliest school was built in 1703, for the building of which Mr. Warren gave the timber, and Mr. Boulton 10,000 bricks. The remaining charge was borne by the township. A school for girls and infants was built in 1816, and a boys' school was built by Lord Vernon in 1839. Lady Vernon

built a new school for girls in 1850. None of them are endowed. The endowment of Poynton chapelry at the present time is, glebe 75*l.* 10*s.*, and 200*l.* from Queen Anne's bounty.

Siddington.

1711. "Certified 22*l.* 10*s.* No burial place, though there be a chappelyard enclosed. Ann. 1721 license granted to bury in the chappellyard, but not in the chappell, and to baptize children, and church women, &c., the names of persons baptized and buried to be transmitted to the mother church. Anno 3rd Edward VI. Vicar of Prestbury lets all his corn tithes in Sydynton, belonging to him and successors in right of the said vicarage and church in Sydynton, to Edward Fitton. Here is a school adjoining to the chappell with 8*l.* per year endowment."

1834. "Dedicated to All Saints. Value 106*l.* Registers begin in 1721. The oak screen within the chapel was formerly painted and gilded."

Siddington chapel is of the black and white style of architecture, consisting of nave, choir, vestry, and a bell turret, which is quadrangular in shape, half timbered, and fixed at the west end of the nave. No part of the exterior of the chapel is older than the late Tudor period; but the screen separating the nave from the chancel is of good decorated workmanship, and takes the date back to the earliest part of the fourteenth century. A school was built and endowed by Davies Davenport, Esq., of Capesthorne.

Wincle.

1717. "Wincle, in the chappellry of Macclesfield, no maintenance, but the inhabitants pay what they please for preaching once a fortnight, when there is any, but there has been none for half a year past. Erected temp. Charles I. No pulpit, no communion table, no font, but the curate has baptized there, but not administered the sacrament. A chappellyard, and burying in it. Augmented 1722 with 200*l.* by contribution of the inhabitants. Six miles from Prestbury, four from Macclesfield."

1834. "Patron saint unknown. Value 116*l.* Registers begin in 1630, but are defective in the early years. The chapel is now regularly used, and has an incumbent. It has been rebuilt, and contains some fragments of ancient painted glass."

The schools were built by Mrs. Daintry of North Rode, as a memorial of her husband, the late Mr. Thomas Daintry. On the 30th September, 1672 (the indulgence year) a licence was granted for building a Presbyterian chapel at Wincle. (Lancashire and Cheshire Licences preserved in Record office. Communicated by Mr. J. C. Bailey of Stretford.)

Saltersford, or Jenkin's Chapel.

This is a small and plain chapel, furnished with a diminutive west tower, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Two inscribed stones, let into the west wall, give the history of the foundation. "St. John Bap^{t} Free Chapel was erected June 24, 1733, at John Slack's expense. In 39 made Sacred for Worship of Almighty God."

The former chapel, built by Jenkin, is only known by a bell dated 1724, which was transferred from it to Ranow church, where it yet hangs.

The registers begin in 1794 and end in 1812. They are entered in the parish book. After 1812 they are private.

Kettleshulme is now joined to Saltersford, and the two are known as "Kettleshulme-cum-Saltersford." The schools and parsonage were built at Kettleshulme, the one in 1864, and the other in 1865, by the vicar of Prestbury, aided by government grant and by private subscriptions.

North Rode.

The church of North Rode, dedicated to St. Michael, was built in 1845, by Thomas Daintry, Esq., and his brother the Rev. John Daintry. It was consecrated the following year, and endowed with 50*l.* a year, a sum which has since been augmented. The patronage is vested in the family of Daintry of North Rode.

The schools were subsequently built by the Rev. John Daintry, and endowed with 20*l.* a year for a master. The population was 277 at the above dates; and the area of the township is 1,520 statute acres.

The church is a handsome building of stone, consisting of tower, nave and aisles, and chancel. It is of the Early English style of architecture.

Henbury.

Henbury is a vicarage, under the patronage of the bishop of Chester for the time being. The church was completed in 1845, and dedicated to St. Thomas. It was built under the "Bishops' Act," which allowed persons to build and endow churches without the consent of the patron or incumbent of the mother church, when the distance was more than three miles from the parish church. The style is early English. Out of 262 sittings, 202 are free. The endowment is 160*l.* a year. Henbury township, Broken Cross, Long Moss, and Sandy Lane, are included in the parish. There are two schools connected with St. Thomas's church, one for Henbury, and the other for Broken Cross.

Bollington, and Bollington Cross.

Bollington church was built in 1834, and dedicated to St. John. It consists of nave, aisles, and tower, all of stone, and of indifferent design. The value of the living is 300*l.* A parsonage, and schools for adults and infants, are attached.

At Bollington Cross there is a licensed school-room for service on Sundays, and for baptisms. During the week it is used for educational purposes. The curate is paid by the Pastoral Aid Society.

Rainow.

There was a chapel at Rainow consecrated in 1783. The present church was built in 1842, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Value 100*l.* The schools were built in 1846.

PRESTBURY VILLAGE.

Prestbury is situated about three miles north-west of Macclesfield. It is built partly in the township of Prestbury, and partly in that of Butley. The river Jordan, or, as it is usually designated, the Bollin, divides these two townships. The village consists of one principal street, and of a small side street called Pearl-street, in the Butley half. Prestbury hall stands at the top of the main street, and was a quaint, picturesque house, very much resembling a French chateau, till recently modernised. Dr. Hope was born here, who obtained a world-wide reputation for his work on disease of the heart, and for being one of the earliest professors of medicine at University College, London. The church stands on the left side. Formerly the river was crossed by a ford, and the road afterwards passed by Pearl-street; but when the present more modern way was constructed, a bridge of two arches, with massive centre pier and breakwater, was built. Being found insecure, it was taken down in 1855 and replaced by the present bridge, which rests on piles and spans the stream with one arch. The river, though only a small one during dry weather, is liable to sudden rises during rains, and the swollen waters from the hills then do considerable damage to the low-lying meadows through which the waters flow. Within a few years it was celebrated for the number and richness of its trout; but now, owing to the dyeworks at Macclesfield, and other causes, the fish are all destroyed.

A small day school stands at the upper end of Prestbury village, which was built in 1720 and endowed with 100*l.* by Ann Whittaker, the interest of which went towards the promotion of a master, who was to teach ten of the poorest children in Prestbury township, from the primer to the Bible. In 1751 a master's house was added. In 1875 Mr. Legh of Adlington built another school on a plan similar to that which he had lately completed in Newton township, for 200 children.

Almost opposite the Lichgate there is a black and white

dwelling, traditionally said to have been the vicarage in the Caroline period. From the balcony of this house it is reported that the vicar used to address his congregation when the church was closed against him and occupied by the Commonwealth party. The house has all the characteristic features common to 17th century architecture. It is two-storied, and very quaint in design. Several houses in the village are of the same period, and one, now used as an inn and known as the Black Moor's Head (crest of Stapleton of Upton), is of late Tudor date.

Butley hall, the ancient seat of the Pigots, stands on the Butley half of the village. It has been much modernised. After the departure of the Pigots in the 18th century, it was newly fronted by a member of the Downes family, whose crest may yet be seen on some of the water spouts, together with the date of alterations, viz., 1777. The first mention I have found of Downes in connection with Butley hall is that of Sarah, wife of William Watts of Butleigh, who was sister of Edward Downes of Shrigley. Edward Downes had a son who died at Butley. The son of this latter, who was born at Butley in 1778, was mortally wounded in action at sea, as appears by his monument in Shrigley church. Afterwards, Butley hall and some lands adjacent were conveyed by Mrs. Rowlls Legh of Adlington to the Rev. J. R. Browne, vicar of Prestbury, for his life. On his demise, the property passed to the Broughtons by the marriage of Elizabeth Hester Legh (daughter of Rowlls Legh, Esq.) with Thomas Delves Broughton of Ham Common. In 1861 the hall and lands adjacent became the property of Mr. W. C. Brocklehurst, M.P. for Macclesfield, by purchase from the representatives of the Broughtons.

The Saxon name "Preost-burgh" sufficiently denotes the antiquity of the village. In the neighbourhood, evidences of urn burial and incremation are to be found. About fifty years since (as pointed out by Dr. Ormerod) a collection of cairns was discovered at Butley Sands, about half-a-mile away from Prestbury, by workmen in search of gravel. An account of the discovery is

given in the *Manchester Volunteer* for 1808. At a yard's depth a stratum of stones was found, which proved to be an assemblage of tumuli, lows, barrows, or cairns. The general position of the cairns seemed to have been nearly circular, and the particular form of each, judging of all from the figure of one, that of an obtuse cone. Around the circumference of the area occupied by these tumuli were placed, at certain intervals, large boundary stones, weighing a hundredweight or more. Exactly in the centre was an excavation filled with stones. The whole of the uppermost stones of which this, but no other, tumulus was composed, exhibited every mark of having undergone the most intense fire, some of them being shining black, and others as if covered with soot. The stones underneath were, most of them, covered with a thin pellicle or film resembling a coat of bright iron-coloured paint, approaching to mahogany colour, and amongst them were some fragments of bones. Near the circumference of the tumulus an urn was found, covered with a large stone, and surrounded with three large boulders. Its contents consisted wholly of ashes; and by its side was a collection of bones. The urn, composed of clay and sand, was capacious enough to hold about two quarts of water, but got broken in a hasty attempt at removal. Small bits of copper, encrusted over with verdigris, were found lying by the urn. A fragment of the urn was saved from the general wreck, and shows the usual straight-line ornamentation, and the side handles. The barrow or barrows just described do not seem to have differed materially from those since found at Lyme Park, Birtles, and Alderley and Clulow. None of the stones now remain; they were broken up for repairing the highway.

Of the early institutions of Prestbury it is not easy to write. When Sir William Dugdale made his visitation in 1699, he copied the following epitaph from the churchyard:

> "Those goods I had whilst I did live
> Unto four Monks I freely give,
> To eate and drinke and make good cheere,
> And say my obit once a year."

The vicar and his colleague would represent two of these monks; and the chantry priest of Tytherington chapel, and possibly a like "bede man" for Adlington chantry chapel, would complete the list.

In the *Notitia Cestriensis*, Bishop Gastrell says, speaking of Prestbury, "here was anciently a priory, the foundations of which have oft been discovered. Certain grounds bear the name of Abbot's Hay, and Abbot's Hay-bank."

About a quarter of a mile away from the village, and situate on an elevated bank, nigh to the river, is a farm known as the "Spittal-house Farm," and lands adjoining known still as "Abbot's Hay." This is probably the site of the grange, which had got to be erroneously called a priory, attached to which was an hospital for the relief of the needy. The present "Spittal-house" farm is a building of moderate antiquity. The occupant in 1853, at that time eighty years old, remembered when a boy to have heard of a previous half-timbered house on the same site.

Of the earliest Saxon church no record whatever remains. Like more pretentious structures at this early period, it would be built of raddle and daub, and hence be liable to quick decay, and open to the inroads of fire.

After the Norman conquest, another church rose out of the ruins of its predecessor, to be quickly replaced by a more imposing building in stone, of which the existing Norman doorway, built into the school in the churchyard, is the only relic. Antiquaries and ecclesiologists have till recently accounted this Norman doorway a specimen of Saxon church architecture, and have hence been induced to accord a character and importance to it beyond its deserts.

The localities from which grants towards the rebuilding and endowment of St. Werburg's monastery at Chester were drawn afford the best evidence of the value of particular properties in the 11th and early parts of the 12th centuries, as waste, or but partially-cultivated districts, would form gifts of an equivocal, or even ungrateful nature. Reference to the deeds of grant, connected with this subject, shew how liberally, and generally over

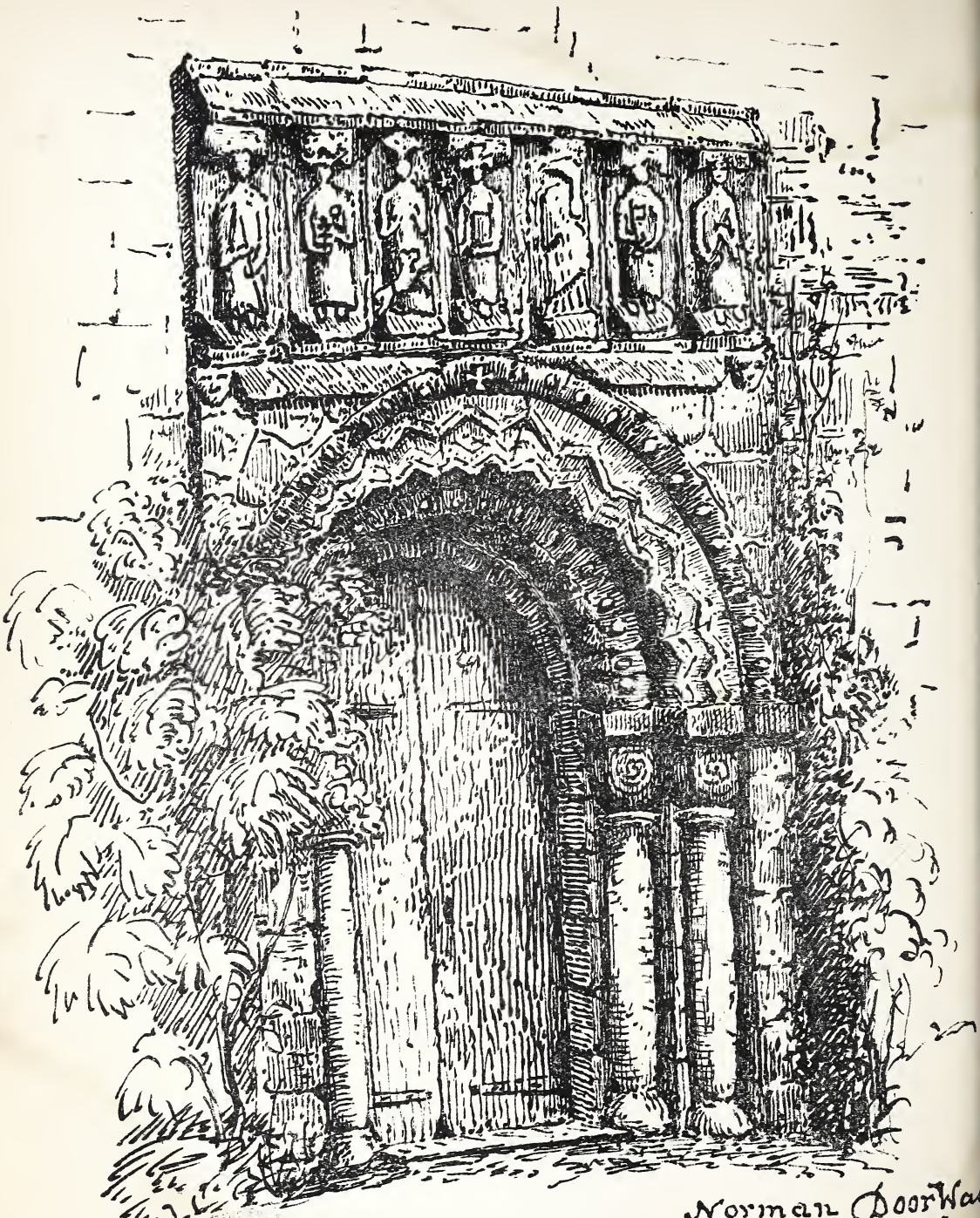
the county, these offerings were made; yet Hugh Lupus, who caused the decaying monastery at Chester to be rebuilt, contributed only one carucate (100 acres) of land out of Prestbury parish, and this came out of Macclesfield township. His son and successor, who was drowned in 1119–20, when only twenty-five years old, made further grants to St. Werburg's monastery; but no mention is made of any township or place in Prestbury parish.

Hugh Kyvelioc, the fifth Norman earl of Chester, first makes mention of the Saxon church of Prestbury, in the following words: "Hugh, earl of Chester, to the constable, sensechal, justiciary, barons, viscounts, baillies, and all his men, as well clerical as lay, French and English, as well present as future, health. Know that I have given to God and St. Werburg the church of Prestbury, with all belonging to it, &c., &c. God and all saints being witness." This deed of gift relates to the second Saxon church of Prestbury.

Randle Blundeville, the sixth Norman earl of Chester, confirmed all his father's acts. He succeeded in 1181, and died in 1232; and in his time the Norman oratory of Prestbury was built, as I now proceed to show.

When Randle Holme, the Chester antiquary, made his church notes, which now form part of the *Harleian MSS.*, he reported the oratory at Prestbury ruinous, and, better still, made a rude pen and ink sketch of it. This sketch, drawn in 1592, is of the greatest value, as it supplies information concerning the structure which it would be otherwise impossible to obtain. This sketch may be seen in Dr. Ormerod's *Cheshire.* The tympanum is seen in position apparently enriched with the persons of the Trinity, the central figure enclosed in a vesica. Then seven figures are drawn on the corbel table, and above them is a three-lighted window. The sketch shows that the oratory consisted of a nave, separated from an apsed choir by a round-headed arch, and that two small round-headed windows let light into the nave on each side, and a like number lighted the choir.

All that remains of the oratory at the present day is the



Norman Doorway
Prestbury Church, Chesh

doorway and the figured corbel table. When the original building was going utterly to decay, Sir Wm. Meredith of Henbury re-set the doorway, and built it into the present schoolhouse, A.D. 1747. A glance at the subjoined sketch will sufficiently indicate the style of doorway, without any description. The seven figures on the corbel table are a good deal defaced through lapse of time and atmospheric influence. They have been variously deciphered ; and, indeed, the semi-ruinous state in which they now are, supplies an apology for some latitude of construction. If rightly read, they give the date of the building and the name of the patron saint. Independently of this particular value attaching to them, they are worthy of note as being somewhat unusual additions to Norman doorways, whether simple or elaborate in design. No. 1, on the left, is the figure of a man who leans on a battle axe, a good deal worn. No. 2 represents a king, crowned, who holds a triply-bipinnate wand or sceptre in his right hand, and a ball or globe in his left. No. 3 is a much-worn figure, seated, and having in front an animal resembling a dog, with the forefoot raised and the tail curled between the hind legs and over the back. No. 4 is the central figure, from the head of which a triple nimbus or glory issues. In the right hand a staff surmounted with a cross potence is grasped; and in the left an opened book is held. No. 5: This figure is more defaced than the rest, and resembles a bird. No. 6 bears a large key in the right hand. No. 7 is the figure of a man who leans on a staff.

The interpretation of the figures seems to be as follows: The centre figure represents God the Father holding the law in his left hand, typified by an opened book, and the Gospel in the right hand, as foreshadowed by the cross; conjointly justice and mercy are pourtrayed. The figure to the right, with the animal (the Norman method of drawing a lamb), seems to stand for Christ, the Lamb of God, seated at the right hand of the Father. The figure to the left, having a resemblance to a bird, typifies the Holy Ghost, in form of a dove. Collectively these three

figures stand for the Trinity. St. Peter, with the key, is shown in the sixth figure. To this saint the church was dedicated, as is its successor at the present day. Figure two represents the monarch who reigned when the oratory was built. A right understanding of this figure gives the key to the solution of the chronological difficulty. Richard Cœur de Leon was the first English monarch who carried a globe adorned with a *budded* sceptre, surmounted with a plain cross. The great seals shew that William the Conqueror held in his left hand a globe surmounted with cross stalked, either plain or potence. In William Rufus's seal the cross is botonné. Henry I., Stephen, and Henry II. bore a cross patée, on the top of which a dove is perched. As, therefore, none of the Norman kings of England bore a budded sceptre before Richard I., the plain inference follows that this monarch is pourtrayed on the corbel table, a fact which brings the date of the oratory within the years 1190 and 1199; or, in other words, the period included between the coronation and death of Richard. The warrior with battle axe, and priest with staff, at the two ends of the corbel table, represent the military and ecclesiastical government of the county palatine. Conjointly, the seven figures may be interpreted as follows: "In the name of the Blessed Trinity, this church, dedicated to St. Peter, was built by the abbot and monks of St. Werburg, in the reign of Richard I., when Randle Blundeville was earl of Chester."

A careful inspection of Randle Holme's sketch shows that the west window is a round-headed triplet, and not a triple lancet; that it is one of a few well-known instances of the kind, when the Norman architecture was being replaced by the Early English. The window is therefore in harmony with the budded sceptre of the king; and both point to the conclusion that this little church, which has been the subject of so many conflicting opinions, was erected towards the end of the twelfth century, and that Hugh Kyvelioc's grant to the monastery at Chester related to the Saxon predecessor of the oratory.

The Present Church of Prestbury, from Notes taken in 1853.

Up to the latter half of the 15th century, no written records exist to tell when the present church was built, but the architectural features furnish moderately correct data. The church of Prestbury is more remarkable for the variety of styles of which it is compounded, than for any one strikingly grand feature. Every style of Gothic architecture is represented, from the Early English down to Elizabethan and Jacobean debasements, and even forward to the latter end of last century. The ground plan consists of west tower and porch, nave, side aisles, and chancel, with vestry to north side of chancel. The tower and porch are Late Perpendicular in style. They date back to the latter half the 15th century, and were built by Reginald Legh, who died in 1482. The arms of Davenport are carved above the tower window, and a shield, bearing a pair of shears half opened, stands out on the south side of the tower below the battlements. The belfry holds eight bells, on one of which is the following: "These eight bells were cast in the first year of the reign of King George the Fourth, A.D. 1820. Richard Legh, Esq., patron. Rev^{d}. John Browne, vicar." Then follow the names of the wardens, and lastly, "J. Mears of London, *fecit*." A smaller bell, uninscribed, is suspended above the peal of eight. It is the "sanctus bell," and used formerly to hang in the little belfry at the east end of the nave. In 1548 the commissioners appointed to prevent the alienation of church property reported that the church of Prestbury had three bells. The churchwardens' accounts in 1588 show that there were then four bells, and that, in this same year, two out of the four were re-cast at the expense of the parish. The same accounts show that in 1602 there were four bells in the tower, and "one small little bell hanging on the church end." Before the present eight bells were cast there used to be six, but none were inscribed.

The nave is separated from the aisles by five columns and

arches on either side. The arches on the north side rest on single columns, round and octagonal alternately; on the south side the columns are clustered, and have the undercut abacus of Early English architecture. The capitals on the north side are ornamented with nail heads and scallops, and they have an undercut abacus. Collectively they point to a transition period of architecture, when the Norman was giving place to the Early English at an early period of the 13th century. Abbot Hugh Grylle issued a license for the appropriation of the church and ordination of the vicarage in 1208–26; and the architecture of the nave of Prestbury church shows that the present structure is referred to. Granting this, it follows that the Norman oratory became too limited for the wants of the parish within the brief space of twenty years.

A clerestory of debased Perpendicular architecture, with square-headed windows, surmounts the nave, built apparently at the same time as the tower, and capped with a pointed roof, as the tower weathering shows. In 1675 the roof had to be renewed at a cost of 65*l.*, as the wardens' accounts show, and it was lowered at this time. In 1719 the open beams were obscured by the imposition of a flat ceiling, on which the apostles and tribes were painted, at a cost of 32*l.*

An Early English font, consisting of four clustered shafts ornamented with heads, and supporting a round top, stands near the west entrance.[1]

Of the north aisle, as it originally stood, nothing is now known save that it was taken down in 1741, and replaced by the present unsightly structure, which is out of all size and character with the rest of the church. The south aisle yet retains distinctive features of decorated architecture, though it has undergone many alterations for the worse.

The south doorway within the porch, and two windows, are good specimens of decorated work. The chantry chapel of the

[1] This has been restored by the Rev. S. L. Wilson.

Tytherington's stands at the eastern end of this aisle, dedicated to St. Nicholas. A piscina, altar stone, portions of parclose, and a full length figure of St. Nicholas in stained glass, is all that remains. The date of this chantry is sometime between 1310 and 1320. The Worths succeeded the Tytheringtons. Robert de Worth married the heiress of Hugh de Tytherington in 1343. He gave Chelford to the monks of St. Werburg on condition of their sending a priest to celebrate mass for the souls of himself, his ancestors and successors, on Sunday and two week days, and on the other four days to say mass in Prestbury church before the altar of St. Nicholas. (Ormerod.)

The remainder of the south aisle is lighted by three square-headed windows, and a gable built of wood. The square-headed windows were inserted in 1613, and the wood and plaster addition was made in 1607, when the pulpit was placed against the second column of the south aisle.

Outside the porch a niche has been made for the effigy of the patron saint, and within there is a holy water stoup and two stone benches.

The Choir.

The choir arch has undergone such varied defacements that its Early English character must be inferred rather than demonstrated. The Early English details exist on either side of it. This part of the church seems to have furnished the wardens with constant employment. Shafts, capitals, and mouldings have alike disappeared. In 1572–73 the wardens pulled down and put up again the rood loft. In 1638 they "set up a lofte for the organ, at the east end, under the chancel arch." Both organ and loft disappeared in 1787, when the present screen, bearing the Legh crest (unicorn's head), was substituted, and apparently the chancel roof also. The choir door on the south side is a simple and elegant Early English structure ornamented with a continuous roll and fillet moulding.

One triple lancet window, the lights of which are all of the

same elevation, and two perpendicular windows, light the sides of the choir. The east window is of the very debased Perpendicular style in vogue during the post-reformation period. It is composed of five large transomed lights, each one of which is subdivided by transomes, with cuspings beneath them.

From the above details, it may fairly be concluded that, (1) The nave and choir are coeval and both Early English, and that they date about the year 1220; (2) That the south aisle is next in point of antiquity, and bears date about 1310–20; that the tower and porch were built about the year 1480, and that the clerestory of nave and the east window in the choir come next in chronological order. After these the square-headed windows and the gabled window were added for convenience sake; and, last of all, the north aisle, built by C. Legh, Esq., in 1741. The church was pewed in the year 1707.

The most noticeable monuments in Prestbury church are four incised slabs, two of alabaster and two of stone. One is fixed against the wall of the Tytherington chapel, and is to the memory of Jasper Worth and his wife Alice, one of the daughters of Sir Philip Draycot of Staffordshire. Jasper Worth is represented habited in the characteristic armour worn towards the latter part of the 16th century, his hands clasped in prayer, and by his side his wife, in a Marian costume. Beneath the feet of Alice Worth three children are depicted. Between the heads of the husband and wife is a shield bearing their respective arms. Those of Worth have four quarters, whilst his wife's impalement has been obliterated, though Dugdale (*Church Notes*) says they were of seven quarters. Randle Holme (*Harleian MSS.*) gives a drawing in which six quarters only are shown. At the foot of the slab, between the two figures, there is another shield on which Worth, with four quarters, impales Downes. This latter stands for a son of Jasper Worth, who married a daughter of Downes. The following inscription encompasses the slab: "Here lieth the bodies of Jasper Worth Esquire which said Jasper deceased the 18th day of February Anno Domini 1572 and Alice

+ Of Sir Philip Dreccate Knt: Lady: Dieg deceased xi Mar: Anno Domini m.d.xc

+ Hic iacet Rad'us Dounes armig' filius Willi Dounes de Wodeford armig' qui obiit in vigilia

+ Of Sir Jasper Dreccate the 18 day of February An'o Domini m.d.xlvi and

his wife one of the daughters of Sir Philip Draycot, knight, which Alice deceased the 11th of March in the year of our Lord 1596."

On the north side of the chancel a slab of millstone grit stone is inserted into the wall, on which is cut the figure of a man in full armour, with hands clasped in the attitude of prayer, and head resting on a helmet surmounted with a ducal coronet, out of which a bird's claw issues, for crest. Around the slab is the following: "Here lyeth the body of Edward Warren of Poynton, knyght, whyche departed frome thys transitory lyffe the 12th day of October in the yeare of our Lord God 1558, whose soule God pardon. Amen."

Sir Edward Warren was son of Lawrence Warren of Poynton, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir Piers Legh of Lyme, by whom he had fourteen children. Edward Warren resided at Prestbury up to the year 1544; after he went to Poynton where he built a new house in the park, which was pulled down by the late Sir George Warren. (Watson's *History of the House of Warren.*) He was knighted at Leith by the Earl of Hertford in 1544. He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Booth of Dunham Massey, who died in 1584, and was buried at Prestbury, as was also Ranulph, a younger brother of Sir Edward, in 1562.

Near to this is another slab of the same grit stone materials, to the memory of Reginald Legh. It is a curious example of a late cross with debased decorations, and can hardly be said to resemble those earlier monumental slabs so common from the 11th to the 14th centuries. An additional interest attaches to it from the circumstance that the surrounding inscription records the fact that this Reginald Legh was instrumental in causing the tower and south porch of the church to be built. It is as follows: "Hic jacet Reginaldus Legh armiger filius Roberti Legh militis quondam dominus de Adlington que Reginaldus fuit principuus adjuton in edificacione campanilis et posticon ecclesiæ. Edificavit de propriis sumptibus. Obiit die Julii Anno Domini

m.cccc°lxxxij° ✠" Dudgdale *(Church Notes)* reported this inscription as imperfect, and it has since been restored from the reading left by him.

In the building of the tower a member of the Davenport family appears to have taken a less conspicuous part than the coat of arms carved above the west window indicates; and had it not been for this Legh monumental inscription, the entire credit might well have been given to the Davenports.

Reasons have been adduced elsewhere (*vide* Legh of Adlington pedigree) for believing this Reginald Legh to have been of Mottram-St.-Andrew, and not of Annesley in Nottinghamshire.

The fourth incised slab is of alabaster, and is built into the south wall of the chancel. It is to the joint memory of Robert Downes and his wife, who is here called Matilda; and also to Robert, son of the above, and to his wife Emma, daughter of Roger Booth.

The male figure is in full armour, and by his side his wife is carved, habited in a long flowing robe, with ermine tippet. Between the heads of the two figures is a shield impaling the arms of Downes and Booth, viz.: A hart lodged, and three boars' heads erased upwards. Lower down is another shield impaling Downs and Bechton, viz.: A hart lodged, and three spades. Above the heads of the effigies, and occupying one fourth of the slab, is the following inscription: "Hic jacent Robertus Dounes Armiger et Matilda uxor ejus, et Robertus Dounes filius dicti Roberti et Emmota uxur ejus filia Rogeri Bouthe Armigeri et dictus Robertus Dounes obiit in vigilia sancti Laurensii martyris Anno Domini m,ccccxcv. Amen."

From the reading, and from the position of the Booth impalement, it may safely be concluded that the sculptured figures are intended for Robert and Emma Downes. This Robert was brother to Roger Downes, the founder of Shrigley church. Sixty years after the date on the above monument the family resided at Tytherington, but not as lords of the manor. On May 15, 1564, 6th Elizabeth, an agreement was made as to the

Edwarde Warren of Poynton kn: whyche dep-ted from this transit

The yere of our Lord god M.CCCC.lviii whose soule God pardon. Amen

us Roberti Legh milit: quondam d'n' d'Adlyngton q' Reginald fu

·iiix

amilis + portet'n scde le Calfrcaut de ppr' Sumtibus Obt xiij die Julij A

burial of Lawrence Downes in Prestbury church chancel. "Indenture between Thomas Stanley (of Alderley, whose daughter Elizabeth married Roger, son of Lawrence Downes), Robert Hyde, and Jasper Worth, Esqrs., of the one part, and Thomas Chamber proctor of the Right Worshipfull Sir Richard Egerton Knt. and Dame Mary his wife of the other part, witnesseth that whereas Lawrence Downes Esq. was desirous in his lifetime that after his death his body should be buried within the chancel of the parish church of Prestburie, which is consented and agreed to by either of the parties aforesaid. It is now therefore agreed as well by the parties aforenamed as by other the friends and kinsfolks of the said Lawrence being present at the said burial, that the heirs or friends of the said Lawrence shall not claim any title or interest in the said chancel, or any buryall or burying place there, by reason or colour of the burying of the said Lawrence in the same chancel, nor that this burial shall be hurtfull or prejudicial to the right liberty or interest which the fermer of the parish of Prestburie ought to have in the said chancell, nor yet prejudicial to any right which the heirs of the aforesaid Lawrence may hereafter claim to the said buryall place. In witness," &c., &c. Accordingly, there are yet tombstones in the churchyard showing that the right of burial in the chancel was was not claimed, and further that this branch of the family of Downes continued to reside at Tytherington till 1727.

Elizabeth, wife of Lawrence Downes of Tidrington was interred October 3rd, 1672.

Lawrence Downes of Titherington died 25 July 1695, aged 70 years. His daughters Mary and Rachael were interred in 1674 and 1686 respectively.

John, son of Mr. Daniel Downs of Titherington was buried October 22nd, 1727, aged 20.

Lawrence Downes and John Worth—the last Worth of Tytherington—died the same year, viz., in 1695.

In the east window of the north aisle, there are some remnants of stained glass which originally represented an impalement of

Legh of Adlington and Brereton of Handforth. The three shields of Corona, Handforth, and Brereton of Malpas, differenced with a cross flory gules charged with five bezants, are yet entire, whilst a part of the coat of Legh of Adlington may be distinguished. A mutilated crest of Brereton of Handforth surmounts the sinister half of the shield, viz.: On a gentleman's helmet a griffin statant with wings raised, on a chapeau. Rearranged, the shield would read as follows: On the dexter half, one and four Corona, two and three Legh of Adlington. Unicorn's head sable issuing out of a ducal coronet argent for crest. On the sinister half, one and four Brereton of Handforth quartering Malpas, two and three sable a star of six points pierced argent (Handforth). Crest of Brereton of Handforth a griffin with wings elevated gules, standing on a chapeau gules, turned up or.

Beneath the shield, on a renaissance tablet, is the following: "Orate pro bono statu Thomæ Leyghe de Adlington Armigeri et Sibilla uxoris suæ uni' filiarum Uriani Brereton de Handford militis defuncti qui hanc fenestram fieri fecerunt in Anno Domini 1601."

A small lozenge-shaped brass is let into the north wall of the chancel to record the death of Theodosia seventh daughter of Nathaniel Booth, Esq., of Mottram-St.-Andrew. On the upper third the arms of Booth, viz.: Three boars' heads erased upwards, differenced with a crescent, are displayed on a lozenge-shaped shield, which is surmounted by a gentleman's helmet wreathed, and bearing the statant lion of Booth for crest. The whole is surrounded with an elaborately wrought lambrequin. The lower part of the brass is occupied with the following inscription: "Hic sepult. jacet cadaver Theodosiæ filiæ septim. Nathaniel Booth Armig. nuper de Mottram-Andrew quæ mortem obiit $170\frac{3}{4}$. Hic sepultum jacet cadaver Mariæ octavæ et natu minimæ filiæ Nathanielis Booth Armiger nuper de Mottram-Andrew quæ mortem obiit die 16 Octobris 1690."

Mottram-St.-Andrew passed from the Calveleys to the Booths in the reign of James I., and remained with them till 1738, when it passed to Mr. Wright of Offerton, by purchase.

A small brass plate, with the following inscription, is let into the west face of the chancel arch: "Heere under lieth buried Edward Newton late of Butley yeman: who deceased y^e^ xijth day of May 1589 being of the age of 72 yeres, and having had by Alyce his wife (with whom he lyved in wedlocke 50 yeres) seven sonnes and seven daughters; whereof four sonnes, Thomas, Edward, Will'm, and Philip, and five daughters, Anne, Elizabeth, Thomazin, Helen, and Marie, survived their father. Thomas Newton filiorū primogenitus; charissimo patri monumentū hoc pietatis et officii ergo P. 12 of September 1589."

Notices of this Thomas Newton are to be found in Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*, Chalmer's *Biographical Dictionary*, Warton's *History of English Poetry*, and elsewhere. Chalmers says that he held the living of little Ilford during the latter part of his life; and that he was buried there. He was a brilliant classical scholar, a poet, a physician, and an author. He was, at one time, in the habit of directing his letters, &c., from "Butley, near Prestbury, in Chestershyre." He was of the same family as the Newtons of Newton and Pownall. In the *English Thebais* of Thomas Newton, the initial letter bears within it a shield, on which is delineated a lion rampant sable, charged with a cross argent on the shoulder, and differenced in the dexter quarter with a crescent argent, being the arms (save the crescent) which were borne by the Newtons of Newton, and which had previously been the armorial device of the Pownalls of Pownall. From the circumstance of a crescent differencing the paternal coat, it would seem that *Edward* Newton was either a second son of Newton of Newton, or the descendant of a second son.

Thomas Newton received his early education at Macclesfield grammar school, under his distinguished relative Dr. Brownsword, at that time master. Afterwards he went successively to Cambridge and Oxford. After Dr. Brownsword's death, he succeeded him in the head mastership of King Edward's grammar school in Macclesfield, which office he resigned on being appointed to the living of Little Ilford, in Essex. Robert earl of Essex was

his patron, and he was noticed by most of the learned men of his day. (Ormerod.)

A small brass plate is fixed into the south wall of the chancel, bearing the coat of Downes quarterly with Shrigley, impaling a fess between six cross crosslets, three and three. It is inscribed as follows, and may be considered as a pious tribute to the penultimate members of the Downes family by the only two surviving female representatives: "In a vault on the south side of this chancel are interred the bodies of Elizabeth Anne, aged 35, the wife of Peter Downes, Esqre.; and of her infant son, John, who died at Butley on the 6th of February, 1781. Also Peter Downes, Esq., late of Shrigley and Worth, who died at Butley on the 27th of March, 1791, aged 63 years. Also Frances their daughter, who died at Manchester on the 7th of March, 1783, aged 7 years. Also many others of the same name and family, who were previously interred in the same vault. This plate was placed here Anno. Dom. 1837 by the only surviving children of the family, Bridget Downes of Shrigley, and Sarah the wife of John Leach Panter, Esq., of Northend Lodge, in the parish of Fulham, Middlesex."

The Elizabeth Anne here named as the wife of Peter Downes, was a daughter of John Craven of the city of London, merchant. The arms at the head of the brass represent therefore Downes impaled with Craven. The colours of Craven are argent a fess gules between six cross crosslets of the second. Above the shield is the crest of Downes, on a wreath, viz., a hart lodged.

Two monuments are fixed against the north wall of the chancel, one to the Rev. Joseph Ward, and his wife; and another to the Rev. John Watson. Mr. Ward was vicar of Prestbury for thirty-three years, and he died in 1772. The Rev. John Watson married a daughter of the Rev. H. Offley Wright, of Mottram-St. Andrew. Mr. Watson resided at Bonis hall, and died in 1816. He was son of the Rev. John Watson, the learned rector of Stockport, who wrote the *History of the House of Warren*, and died in 1783.

The following monuments are fixed against the wall of the south side of the nave aisle:

1. A marble slab to the memory of Joseph Brooksbank, major in y^e^ army, who died in 1853, aged 64 years, at the Higher Beach, Macclesfield, of which place, and of Titherington, he was owner.

2. A marble tablet to the memory of Mary, wife of John Marsden, D.D., and daughter and co-heiress of John Acton of Beach, who died in 1771, ætat 41.

3. A small tablet to the memory of Lætitia Catherine Hibbert, daughter of Henry Augustus Leicester of Tabley, Esq., and wife of Robert Hibbert, junr., Esq., of Birtles. She died in 1817, at the age of 19 years. The arms of Hibbert impale those of Leicester, viz.: Ermine, a bend sable charged with three crescents argent, for Hibbert; and azure, a fess between three fleur-de-lis or, for Leicester.

On the north aisle wall there is a monument of Greek design, ornamented with urn, palm branches, &c., to the memory of the Orfords of High Lane, Disley. The father served the office of steward to Colonel Legh of Lyme. The two sons, Richard and Thomas, were much and very deservedly respected for their active benevolence in the neighbourhood of Disley, where they devoted a large share of their time and means to promote the social and religious wants of the community. Both died unmarried.

Within the Adlington chapel, and on the east wall of the nave, there are two family monuments. One is to the memory of Charles Legh of Adlington, Esq., the last representative of his family in direct descent. The arms of Venables of Kinderton, with the inescutcheon of Lee of Wincham, adorn the slab, and represent respectively Charles Lee and Hester his wife, the heiress of Wincham. The inscription states that Charles Legh died July 26, 1781, aged 84, and that he had an only child, Thomas, who died at Wincham when 40 years old. The second is to Emily Jane, infant daughter of Jno. and Emily Ann Lawton.

Passing up the centre of the nave, two small brass plates are to be seen screwed to a pew door, inscribed thus:

"Here lieth the body of Thomas Duncalf Esq. of Adlington, of the ancient family of Duncalfs formerly of Foxwist, in Butley, who departed this life Sept. 25, 1805, aged 84. Also Ann his wife who departed this life Nov. 28, 1774, aged 58."

"Sacred to the memory of Mary Duncalf of Adlington, who departed this life Aug^{t}. 18, 1839, aged 87 years. In the same grave lie also the remains of her sister Ann Duncalf who departed this life Feb. 5, 1842, aged 82."

The above records are the more entitled to notice because they refer to the last survivors, in genteel circumstances, of an old family which resided at a doubly-moated grange within 2½ miles of Prestbury called Foxwist, on the western boundary of Adlington deer park. Their armorial bearings were argent, between a chevron gules, three calves' heads sable. Dr. Ormerod says that the names of the Duncalfs frequently occur to deeds in the reigns of Edward II. and III.

Nothing of the house now remains but a part of the foundation walls, upwards of a yard in thickness. A part of the site is occupied by a small 17th century half-timbered dwelling. Till a few years ago the water remained in the inner moat; and when it was drained off many objects of interest were found, and amongst others a figure of Christ in good Byzantine workmanship.

The arms of Legh of Adlington, Legh of Lyme, Warren of Pointon, Davenport, Downes, Meredith of Henbury, Swetenham, Glegg of Withington, Wright of Mottram-Andrew, and Thornycroft of Thornycroft, are painted in a row in front of the organ gallery, which was built in 1711–12, and newly fronted in 1769.

Dr. Ormerod says that, when he wrote, there was a brass in the south aisle, on which was written, "Here lyeth the body of Bythia wife of William Swetenham of Swetenham Esq. 1742." Also Thos. son of the above, who died in 1748, aged 52. This brass is not now to be seen; but its former existence gives a reason why the arms of Swetenham are included amongst those of families resident in and about Prestbury in the middle of the eighteenth century.

The arms of Birtles of Birtles are painted in front of the gallery at the western end of the south aisle. They are quarterly one and four, argent a chevron sable bearing three fleurs-de-lis argent, between three cross-croslets sable; two and three sable, on two chevronels or three fleurs-de-lis gules. Crest, a lion rampant regardant azure, on the sinister side of a tree proper.

About the year 1841, when a part of the chancel wall was taken down, two fragments of slabs were found as parts of the masonry, representing monumental art of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries respectively. One is ornamented with a geometrically interlaced double floriated cross, the stem of which is rendered ornate with five pairs of stalked lilies. The other fragment shows a lilied cross, and the hilt of a sword. Amongst the mass of displaced masonry was a piece of red sandstone, with rude chain tracery carved on one face, and evidently a part of the early Norman mortuary cross. Another fragment of an incised slab was brought to light when the floor of the Tytherington chapel was taken up in 1858. It has a leaf-like cross enclosed in a nimbus, and is of a design by no means common. Formerly a mortuary chapel of the Davenports stood in the churchyard, as the following extract shows, taken from Piccope's *Cheshire Wills*:

"That her body (*i.e.* the body of Elizabeth Davenport, 1577) be buried in the chapel standing in the churchyard of Prestbury, near unto her husband."

There are some rhyming couplets on a tombstone in the churchyard, curious from recording that a century ago Shrigley was a deer park, and from the word "wounds" being pronounced "wouns." The date is 1750.

"Here lies the body of Edward Green
Who for cutting stone famous was seen
But he was sent to apprehend
One Joseph Clarke of Kerridge End
Who was stealing deer of Squire Downes
When he was shot and died of the wounds."

Another rather jovial couplet commemorates an old Adlington huntsman:

> "O the joys of his life were good hounds and good nappy,
> Then let us all wish he'll be more and more happy."

A penultimate branch of the old family of Malbon, or Malbank, is buried near the chancel door. His tombstone is inscribed thus: "M.S. Samuelis Malbon de Aula Willotensi (Willot Hall in Butley) in hac parochia, Generosi. Quicquid Caducum hic infra recondebatur. 30° Die Apr. 1678."

The name occurs several times in the parish register at the latter end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries.

In 1857 the advowson, previously purchased by the Rev. Mr. Antrobus, was sold by him to the Rev. Stephen Lea Wilson. Soon after, Mr. Wilson came to reside at Prestbury, and acted as curate to the Rev. Henry Pearson, at this time vicar. He made the following alterations in the church, and completed them in 1858.

The sanctus bell was replaced in the belfry at the east end of the nave.

The early English font was recut, and parts worn through time, &c., were replaced by stone insertions. The base is new.

The parclose was removed from the Tytherington chapel, and the whole chapel was re-pewed. The altar stone was broken up, and the piscina taken out of the south wall and inserted beneath the window. The stone tracery of this eastern window was renewed after its former design. Stained glass was introduced at the cost of Mr. Thomas Brocklehurst, to whom this chantry chapel passed when he purchased Tytherington estate. Two shields of arms were introduced, viz., his own, and those intended for Tytherington, viz., argent, a cross ragulée, sable, which should have been couped.

The mahogany pulpit was removed from the third pillar of the nave. Whilst being taken down an oaken octangular pulpit was found to be enclosed within it, supported on a stem. This Jaco-

bean pulpit was placed against the chancel arch. It is inscribed, "attendite Dominus loquitur." The wardens' accounts show that it was made of oak taken from Burleyhurst and Adlington woods, and that it was made in 1607. In 1710, the same records show that it was re-cased with mahogany, and had a sounding board added, at a cost of 8*l.*

Stalls were erected in the choir, which have obscured the Booth brass and the alabaster slab of Downes. The east window was fitted with stained glass representing the leading events in the life of St. Peter. The roof was painted.

The following items are to be found in the wardens' accounts relating to pews, property, pulpit, reading desk, &c.

1563–72. High altar removed, and rood screen. Settles placed in the church.

"Item to Hugh Mottram for takynge downe and settynge upp the roode lofte, and makynge formes in the Church.

"Item to John Cowper for pullynge downe the Hygh Altar; and for a Communion table on a frame, 8sh:"

1577. "For cuttynge the Crosse in the Church yarde, and for charge of one with a certificate thereof to Manchester, 12*d.*"

1632. "A brass dyall & a poste" was put up on the stumped mortuary Cross, at a cost of 3*s.* 6*d.*

In 1602 an inventory was made of all the church goods belonging to the parish church of Prestbury.

"Foure bells with ropes, wheels, and bell ropes.

"One lytell bell hyngynge on the Churche ende.

"One Clock, with ropes, and face of lead.

"Two Coverynges for the Communion table.

"One Coverynge for the Pulpitte, and one Pillowe.

"A payre of Organes with some pypes wantynge.

"Two Chystes, and a Poor-man's box.

"A Communyon table.

"One Communyon Cup of Silver, and one of Pewter.

"A box to put bread in, and a bottle for wyne.

"Three bibles, two of an English prynte, and one of a Geneva print.

"A lanthorne.[2]

"A Shovel.

"An old Communyon booke with the first tome of Omelyes. The second tome of Omelyes, with an old Psalter; the apolegy; and Moorlerate on Matthew.

"A regyster booke in paper for Chrystenings, Weddynges, and Buryinges.

"A book for the Church Wardens' Accounts.

"A buckette of brass, and an old handbell.[3]

"Two surplices, and a table cloth of flaxen.

"A large service book given by the late Vicar."

In 1637 "the pues were set up, the workmanship 10*l.* The timber came from Tabley."[4]

1671. Faculty granted for erection of additional pews. "Whereas it hath been represented unto me that the seats and pews in the parish church of Prestbury are too few to contain so numerous a congregation as resort thereto, and that there are several vacant places unseated, viz., at the west end of the said church by the wall on each side of the great doors, the quantity twelve square yards or thereabouts on the lower end of the south side of the wall (belonging to Edward Birtles of the Hill), seven yards or thereabouts, and by the font two square yards, I John Bishop of Chester do hereby give leave for the setting up of seats or pews accordingly, in the places aforesaid, provided that the setting up, or erecting of the said seats or pews doth neither obstruct the passage, or obscure any lights in the said church, and that it be not in any other ways prejudicial to any person; and also that the said pews or seats be so decently framed and built as may become a place of public worship. Given, &c., 1671."

[2] "Let the Host be carried with reverence, with a light and a lanthorne going before." (Arch. Reynolds' Cov., 1322.)

[3] "Let there be a handbell to be carried before the body of Christ, in the visitation of the sick." (Arch. Winchelsey's Cons., 1305.)

[4] The present pews were erected in 1707, at a cost of 60*l.*

In the same year a faculty was granted to Mr. Nathaniel Booth of Mottram-Andrew, for a pew. "That the uppermost seat next to the Chancel upon the south side is fit to be appropriated to Mr. Nathaniel Booth of Mottram-Andrew, and his successors, no other person claiming a right to it." This seems to be the spot from whence the pulpit was removed in 1607, and to which it was restored in 1858. The reading desk remained in *situ* till 1694, when a faculty for its removal was obtained.

"Thomas Wainwright doctor of Laws, vicar general and official principal, to the right reverend father in God Nicholas &c. Lord Bishop of Chester, to John Davenport Esq., John Baskervill Esq. (of Withington) John Worth Esq. and Edward Thornycroft Esq., Churchwardens, greeting. Whereas we are certified that it would be very much for the benefit and advantage of the auditory to have the reading desk removed and placed under the pulpit on the south side of the Church of Prestbury, without damage or prejudice to any person; and whereas we have sent out our Proclamation and general Citation against all manner of persons that have or pretend to have any right title or interest in the place under the pulpit to appear and propound and allege reasonable cause why our license or faculty should not be granted to you to remove and place the said reading desk under the pulpit as aforesaid, and no person appeared or alleged cause to the contrary, these are therefore to permit and authorize you the said John Davenport, &c., &c., to remove the said reading desk, and decently to place a reading desk under the pulpit as aforesaid. In testimony, &c. Concordat cum decreto. Henricus Prescott Reg. Dep."

The year following, *i.e.*, in 1695, the following faculty was granted to John Davenport, Esq., of Woodford, and Edward Thornycroft, for erecting "Scammam, stallum, sive sedile, infra navim ex parte australi ad usus ibidem standi, sedendi, genuflectendi, divina audiendi, et preces Deo effundendi, dictus Dominicis et Testibus aliisque temporibus opportunis, &c."

An "old order was taken and of longe tyme used, by the

consent of the whole Parish of Prestburie for the meeringe and devydinge of the Churchyarde there, for the better repayringe and mayntainge of the same." This was not later than the year 1600. "First beginninge at the south west corner, and soe descendinge after High-street unto the south,

Sidington	hath	3	yards.
Marton	„	5	„
Roade	„	4	„
Capesthorne	„	3	„
Henbury	„	4½	„

in which part is the High street above the Lych gate towards the south."

Part of this Lych gate is coeval with the tower of the church. It was repaired in 1728; or, as an inscription within it states, newly erected.

"Mottram-Andrew 4½ yards in which part is the yate.

"Ranowe hath 8 yards and a half.

"Birtles hath 1¼ viz., the street next the north corner."

The west wall of the churchyard was built in 1765, at a cost of 56*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* Birtles and Henbury paid nothing towards this wall in consideration of their having "recently erected stone stiles in the place where the gates now are." The parish paid their proportion, viz., 7*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* In 1858 the area of the churchyard was doubled at the expense of C. R. B. Legh, Esq., the patron.

Prestbury church was still under the influence of the Bishop of Lichfield in the time of abbot Hugh Grylle, *i.e.*, 1208–26.

William, Bishop of Coventry, gave to the church of St. Werburg, for their own use, the church of Prestbury, together with everything of his belonging to it, save ten marks of silver to the vicar, and his own episcopal jurisdiction.

The following convention made between John de Montalt and Eleanor de Stockport his wife, and Richard de Stockport, is copied into Mr. R. Wood's *Cheshire MSS.:*

"Hoc est conventio facta inter Johannem de Montealto et Elenam uxorem ejus ex una, et Ricardum de Stockport ex altera, viz.: Quod cum predictus Ricardus et Johannes unanimi consensu dilectum sibi Walterum de Kancia clericum ad ecclesiam de Prestbury in comitatu Cestriæ vacantem nuper presentassent que quidem advocatio ad Dominum Johannem ratione donacionis uxoris ad manerium suum de Puenton (Poynton) pertinet. Quod quidem manerium post decessum dominæ Elanæ dicto Ricardo et heredibus suis ut hereditas sua una cum advocacione dictæ ecclesiæ reverti debent. Ita convenit inter eos quod, &c. Testibus Dominus Galpidus de Cheadle, Petrus de Arderne, Roger de Avenporte (qy. Davenport), Ric. Worth, W. de Hawardyn, et aliis."

To this is appended the seal of John de Montalt, viz., a lion rampant with a label of three bars, circumscribed "Sigillum Johannis de Montealto"; and the seal of Eleanor de Stockport, viz., a woman statant, holding in the right hand a shield on which the arms of Stockport are cut, and in the left another shield quarterly, over all a bend for Malbank, Eleanor's maiden name, circumscribed "Sigillum Elenæ de Stockport."

The Cheshire charters show that Richard de Stockport quit claimed to St. Werburg's monastery the claim which he had in vill of Prestbury. 17°. Edward son of Henry. 1289.

The vicar's portion was settled in 1274, as follows: "Simon de Blaydon the official of Bishop Roger ordained that the Vicar of Prestbury shall receive for ever offerings throughout the year, except the offerings of tenths at lent, and the offerings at Easter Day, and the day of St. Peter, which shall go to the abbot and convent at Chester. He shall also receive the whole of the wax money, and flax, and tenths of eggs, and birds, together with the portion already assigned to the Vicar and then possessed. The said Vicar shall bear all ordinary charges, and provide that both the mother church and the chapels are served in a becoming manner. He shall find the books and ornaments in the same: but the extraordinary expenses, together with the reparation of the

chancel, the monks will bear. The Vicar shall also have a sufficient house, with its enclosure."

A dispute between the parishioners and the vicar called forth the following: "definitive sentence after great disputation, proceeded from the Official the Archdeacon of Chester, that the parishioners of the church of Prestbury should repair the nave of the church, and find the Vestments, and Books, and other ecclesiastical ornaments, except a decent Pyx for the Eucharist, and Corporals, about which the Vicar for the time being shall see." (For originals of these two last documents, *vide* Ormerod, *Hist. Cheshire.*)

In 1525 Dr. Ralph Sneyd made an award between the monastery and the vicar: "This awarde of me Mayster Rauffe Sneyde doctor of both laws made the 11th day of September in the yere of oure Lorde God a thousanne ffyve hundreth ffyve and twenty witnesseth that where varyance discorde and contencion hath been had movyd and styred bitweene Thomas Abbot of the Monasterye of Saynte Werbergh in Chester one the one partie, and one Sir John P'sons (Parson) vicare of the parishe churche of Prestburye on the other partie of for in & upon the right tytle and possession of augmentation and of a deme oblacion of 4 pence at every weddynge, and of and for the fyndynge of bredde and wyne for all theym that shall receyve the blessyd sacramente at the feste of Pasche to all the whole parishioners of Prestburye aforesaid. And also for the contentation and payment of pynege and signage for the said parishe churche of Prestburye 16 shillings & eight pence yerely to be paid to the Archdeacon of Chester. Wherefore I the said Doctor Sneyde by the assent consent and agreemente of both the said parties order juge deme and awarde of and in the premysses that the said Thomas Abbot of Chester shall pay or cause to be paid unto the said Vicare of Prestburye during his lyffe naturale four marks sterlynge yerely to be paide unto the said Vicare at the day and feste of Saynte Martyne the Bysshop in winter next comying after the date herof, and the day and feste of the Nativitie of Saint John

Baptiste then next foloynge by evyn porcions. And so yerely for ever so that the said Vicare pay or cause to be payde unto the said Abbot or his fermer or proctore there for every weddyng 4d. And the said Vicare to finde bredde and wyne at Pasche to howsill the said Parishioners and yerely to pay the pynege and signage due unto the Archdeacon of Chestre for the said Parishe Church of Prestburye. And further more I the said Doctor Sneyde award that the said Vicare shall never sue for augmentation pencion or porcion during his lyffe but be contented with the same aforesaid. In witness," &c., &c. Ralph Sneyde was of the family of Sneyd of Keele, in Staffordshire.

The value of Prestbury living some time before the dissolution of the monastery was stated as follows in a local *MS. History* compiled by Mr. T. Watson:

	£	s.	d.
Manor of Prestbury with tenants thereon ...	10	8	0
Easter Roll	20	0	0
Tythe Corn	60	0	0
Tythe Wool and Lamb	30	0	0
Tythe Calves.....	7	0	0
	£127	8	0

Offerings and other casualties belonging to the Vicar of Prestbury:

	£	s.	d.
Mansion House and 5 acres of Glebe	1	3	4
Sydington Corn tythe and Hay	2	13	4
Capesthorne tythe	0	13	4
Upton and Fallibroome.....	0	16	0
Tytherington tythe Corn and Hay	2	0	0
Offerings at Christmas from all the Parish ...	1	10	0
Hemp, Flax, Geese, White tythe except half the Village of Poynton	3	6	8

Casualties of all burials, and marriages, all wax candles that be upon the corps at funerals through the whole parish except the Chapel of Macclesfield of which the Vicar is to have but the half..... ——

This statement agrees very nearly with the item in *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, temp. Henry VIII.:

Vicar of P'stbury
Rad' Grene Vic. ib'm
valet in

Terr. glebat'p. an^{m} xx^{s} decim granor vj^{li} dec' minut' coib$\bar{3}$ annis xl^{s} oblac' xx^{s}.....	x^{li}
S$\bar{m}$a pat$\bar{3}$ clare	x^{li}
Xm$\bar{a}$ inde	xx^{s}

The inventory taken shortly after the dissolution of the monastery, shows that the value of Prestbury living had increased:

	£	s.	d.
The parsonage of Prestbury is worth by year	151	0	0
Temporalities of Chelford are worth	7	3	3
„ Astle „	0	3	0
Wages of Priests serving in Chelford in the parish of Prestbury	4	6	8
Pixis and Sinagys, Prestbury	0	16	4

In the Will of Dame Mary Egerton, copied into *Piccope's Cheshire Wills*, the tithes of some nine chapelries in Prestbury are given as follows:

	£	s.	d.	
Tithe Corn and Hay of Old Withington.....	4	0	0	per year.
„ „ Chelford.....	4	0	0	„
„ „ Ranow	2	0	0	„
„ „ Hurdsfield	1	2	0	„

	£	s.	d.	
Tithe Corn and Hay of Bollington	7	0	0	per year.
„ „ Bosley and Rode ...	8	0	0	„
„ „ Marton	15	0	0	„
„ „ Milne House	1	6	8	„
„ „ Astle	2	13	4	„
„ „ Withington	14	6	8	„
	£59	8	8	

In 1859 the value of the living of Prestbury was 550*l.* per annum. The corn tithe has been commuted for 153*l.* per annum. The hay tithe has been commuted for 237*l.* per annum. These sums are liable to vary. The glebe land is at present let for 75*l.* per annum. A wear rent of 25*l.* per annum is due to the vicar for mill water power. The surplice fees vary from 65*l.* to 85*l.*

There are notices of leases and grants of Prestbury church from the year 1448:

1448. Henry VI. Robert de Legh and Nicholas Briddon leased Prestbury church and tythes of the abbey of St. Werburg for one hundred pounds per annum.

1491. Henry VII. Thomas Legh renewed the lease.

1525. Henry VIII. George Legh and Ralph Green (parson of Lawton) renewed it.

1542. Prestbury manor and rectory were granted to the cathedral of Chester.

1580. Elizabeth. The Queen re-granted the manor, advowson, and tythes of Prestbury, to George Calveley, George Cotton, Hugh Cholmondeley, and Thomas Legh.

Mr. Legh survived the other grantees, whereupon the manor, &c., became invested in him and his heirs for ever, subject to an annual payment of 13*l.* 11*s.* to the dean and chapter of Chester.

On this subject Dr. Ormerod makes the following note: "After the dissolution, the manor and advowson of Prestbury, which had been granted to the dean and chapter of Chester, fell, with

other manors, &c., into the hands of Sir Richard Cotton, and by patent, 22 Elizabeth, were confirmed generally to the fee farmers, to whom George Cotton transferred his father's acquisitions. In the division of this property, the same passed (August 6, 22 Eliz.) to the Leghs of Adlington, who were possessed of a lease of the impropriated rectory before the dissolution. In the Inq. p. mortem 44 Eliz., Thos. Legh of Adlington, Esq., held, *inter alia*, the rectory and manor of Prestbury, and lands therein, and in Buttleigh, from the Queen, as of her manor of East Greenwich, in socage by fealty, value 5*l.* From this period, the manor, impropriated rectory, and advowson of Prestbury, have passed with Adlington. The Leghs hold a court leet and court baron for the same twice a year."

The Register of Prestbury Church, and Churchwardens' Accounts.

These records are interesting for many reasons. Local manners and customs are preserved in many of their pages; glimpses of the bye-gone natural history of the neighbourhood are obtained; the intolerance of former ecclesiastical statutes is illustrated; the modes in which charity displayed herself are represented; the lax moral discipline, that was not uncommon, is set forth; the method of levying the rates, and the titles they received, are shown; besides events and circumstances that call for no particular classification.

The register begins in 1520; and is more or less imperfect till 1720. During the Civil wars the entries are especially deficient, as the following extract best shows:

"During the time of the Civil war this, and other parchments were, for their preservation, for several years, hid; and the registers taken in paper, were in Valentine Braithwaite's custody, whereof some part, by hiding, were spoiled, others pulled in pieces and defaced, and that for divers years."

All of the most interesting items were extracted, and grouped together, by the Rev. William Pearson in 1859, during the time

that his father acted as vicar of the parish church and parish; and, in this form they will perhaps be read with greater interest, than if the chronological order had been more exactly followed.

Old Customs, &c.

1577. Ringinge the Curfewe one Wynter Season. (Elsewhere written "Curfyre, and Corfire.") Ringinge the five o'clock bell. (This practice is yet in vogue.)

1655. Paid to ringers for ringing at the Gunpowder trayson day, 5*s*. (This practice has since been regularly continued.)

1707. Being a day of thanksgiving annually to be observed in memory of our gracious deliverance from the Popish powder Plot, charges then on ourselves and ringers, and several other parishioners for Gunpowder, 3*l*. 5*s*. 10*d*. Item, Coals for bonfire, 1*s*. 6*d*. Item, paid for a load of stocks from Whitley Hey Park, and for carriage, 2*s*. 6*d*. Item, paid for making and kindling the fire, 6*d*.

1671. A book to notify the names of strange Ministers.

1623. Spent at rush bearing (first mention); afterwards there are several mentions of a fee or present made to the sidesmen, *e.g.* "1729, to the Prestbury Sidesmen at Rushbearing, 5*s*,"

1687. Item. For hyre of a horse to Lyme where we received two warrants from Mr. Legh for persons who brought noe affidavit concerning the burying in wollen of John, son of Mary Mills, of Ranow, widow, and Sampson Frost of Ranow. Horse hyre, 8*d*. Two warrants, 4*s*.

1688. Upon the Vicar's Certificate to us that noe affidavit was brought in tyme for Mary Simpson of Pott Shrigley, and Dorothy Birchenough of Bollington, for being buryed in woólen; charges for ourselves and horses in riding to Sir J. Andrews, one of his Majesty's justices of Peace, for a warrant according to the act concerning the same, 4*s*.

One of the forms of affidavit required to be produced at funerals under this oppressive and useless act of parliament is here

given as a specimen. It was intended to encourage and protect the woollen trade.

1584. For the Charges of the Church Wardens for gatherynge the money sessed within the Parishe for the relief of Prisoners, and carrynge the same to Congleton to Mr. Swetnam, and after to Chester.

1595. Received for money for maymed Soldyers and Maryners synce the xth daye of June 1594, and the xth daye of June 1595, xxvj^{sh}.

1632. Item, the new addition, xvj^{sh}.

This means a sum of 16*s.* additional to that collected in 1595. It was a distinct church rate; and, if it remained uncollected, the churchwardens were summoned, as appears by the following entry made in

1585. To Mr. Sheriff, and his men, when they served us being indyted for wante of the prisoner's money, and other expenses at payment thereof, 2*s.* 4d. To the Clarke of the peace, when we were attached for the said money.

This rate seems to have been an obnoxious one, and subject to inquiry, as follows:

1634. Agreed that the Churchwardens hereafter shall inquire of the generalitie of this paymente throughe the County; and by what authoritie, and for what use it is collected; and if they finde it not to be generall, and by sufficient warrant, then they shall refuse the payment thereof.

Modes of Charity.

1628. To a poore man who should have had a gatheringe in the Churche.

Given to two strangers which should have had a collection in the Churche, xij^{d}.

1636. Given to a stranger who had a pass from the Kinge to goe to his own Country.

Paid for writing letters of request for dyvers poore and impo-

tent persons to have Collections in the Churches and Chappels within our Parish.

1638. Given to a Souldier who had a passe to goe from Churchwardens to Churchwardens, 4*d.*

1662. Given to a poore man that came with a letter of request from the Lord General Munche.

1721. To a traveller with pass from Major Davenport, 1*s.* 6*d.*

Briefs and Collections.

1672. Mrs. Margaret Alland by a letter of request, shee being a Minister's wife, her husband troubled with the melancholy, 4*s.* 11*d.*

1676. Isa, a Caldean priest borne in Mosa in Mesopotamia, together with his son Mes, a deacon, foure sons more in Captivitie under the Turks, 6*s.* 2*d.*

Richard Malpas and Margery his wife of Hole Hill in the parish of Debington, in behalf of Andrew Malpas who was taken by the Turkish pyrates belonging to Algiers, being in a shipp called the John of Dublin, 8*s.*

1688. Upon a letter of request in behalf of Mr. Timothy Crowe of Halstone in the County of Cornwall whose late able qualitie of publique service was so pressed under the Royal Hand and Signet of his late Sacred Majesty, but hee being reduced very lowe by severall misfortunes by sea and land, and his son William Crowe travellinge into foraigne parts was taken by a Sally Man of War, and not to be redeemed under 300*l.* Collected 12*s.* 3*d.*

1699. For poore distressed Protestants of the Vaudois, inhabitants in the valleys on this side the river Cluson, and of those of Piedmont on the other side of the said river, 3*l.* 9*s.* 7½*d.*

The next collected items are in respect of *Recusants*, or those who refused to attend service in the Church. Cognizance was taken of recusants in the 1st of Elizabeth ; and in the 22nd of the same reign, it was resolved to "proceed roundly with them." The principal recusants in Cheshire were ordered to be imprisoned

in Halton Castle, under the care of some godly person, and to be dieted in the same way as the Fleet prisoners. In the 24th Elizabeth the wardens and sidesmen, ministers and others, were ordered to present recusants at the next quarter sessions; and in the year following William Chaderton, bishop of Chester, received orders to send up to London a certificate of recusants in his diocese. Eightpence a week was ordered to be collected in all the churches in Cheshire for the support of priests and poor recusants imprisoned in the Fleet at Manchester, where a preacher was kept to instruct them. Lady Mary Egerton, widow of Thos. Legh of Adlington, was one of these Non-conformists. In May 7, 1582, a letter passed from Sir George Bromley, to the bishop of Chester, desiring a further respite for her, forasmuch as he thought there were hopes of her conforming. On the 1st of July, he writes again, and expresses sorrow for her obstinacy; but wishes she may be gently dealt with, and have preachers sent to confer with her. Next January, through Sir Christopher Hatton's influence, a further respite was obtained. From this time no mention of further proceedings is made. She lived to the year 1599, and her immunity is probably due to the fact of her being foster mother to the lord keeper.

In 1593, an act was passed "to restrain her majesty's subjects in their due obedience;" and, under its provisions, any person above sixteen years of age who obstinately refused to attend public worship during the space of one month was to be committed to prison, &c.

1592. Item, for charges of one of the wardens to answer in the name of his fellowes and some men of the parishe, what recusants were in the said paryshe before the Justyce of Asyse at the last Asyse.

For charges of two of the wardens for apprehendynge of Roger Laye suspected to bee a recusante.

For paper to make a booke wherein was contayned the names of all the parishioners. The booke was delivered to the Commissioners for recusantes.

1626. Item, for makynge billes to every Chappel in the parish concerning recusants and non-communicants.

1635. Spent at several tymes about the Bushoppe's warrant for apprehension of John Scurrier and others who were not conformable to our Church of England.

1682. Paid Parator Faulkner for bringing the justices' order touching dissenters when the Lord Bishop's appointment was read in the Church.

1671. The Wardens cited before the Court of Correction for not having a black hearse cloth.

Miscellaneous Items.

1634. Spent about Contribucion to Pawle's Church, and in giving the names to the Justices of those who were able to Contribute to the same. (King James set on foot subscriptions for the re-building of St. Paul's Church, London, in order to gratify the public.)

1683. Paid to a messenger for going to a man's friends who was killed that day as was supposed with the first bell, when the bells were ringing.

"When we met the King's Amner diverse tymes concerning the 6th bell which was supposed to kill the man, 9*s*."

1676. For the Carriage of the old silver bowls and two Chalices for the Communion which were sent to London to be made bigger and handsomer after the new mode, and more rich, at the Charge of the Patron. (These two flagons were stolen out of the vestry, together with the surplice; and in 1703 were again found in a pit in Cheadle Hulme.)

1704. The Virger, his Salary, paid to him towards a pair of shoes and stockings.

1728. The Virger, Annual Salary, and biennial gown.

1702. Paid to Edward Downes of Shrigley Esq. by the consent of the parish toward the repair of Pott Chapel, 10*l*. In 1718 20*l*. more was given for the same purpose.

1771. Agreed that two shillings should be added to the burial

dues in consideration that the new graves should be digged two feet deeper, on account of want of room in the Churchyard.

The following entries respecting exemptions from fasts, occur in the register of births, deaths, and marriages.

1632. Licencia Comedendi Carnes concessa fuit Luciæ Gobert viduæ 2° die Martii. (Widow of Thos. Legh of Adlington.)

Licencia Comedendi Carnes Concessa fuit Elizabethæ uxori Johannis Davenport de Marton armigeri 7° die Martii, 1632.

Similar licenses were granted in 1633, to Francis Pott of Pott, Esq.; to William Burgess of Macclesfield, gentleman; to Lucy Gobarte of Adlington, gentlewoman; to Elizabeth Davenport of Marton, gentlewoman; to Thomas Legh, knight; to all of which the following note is appended: "Omnes supra dictæ Licenciæ concessæ fuerunt in causa gravioris morbi, excepta E. Davenport in Puerperio." "Thomas Joynson, vicar."

In this same register it is recorded that, "the first meeting for the sale of Cattle, ever held in Prestbury, was on the 17th day of April, old style. The next meeting was held October 11, the same year. These meetings have been continued ever since, April 28, and October 22, new style."

Of the Serage Silver of Prestbury.

The serage silver, or wax money, and the holy bread silver, constitute items of interest in the registers. The serage silver answers to the more modern church rate; and holy bread silver was money paid by different townships towards the purchase of bread and wine for Communion.

Concerning serage silver, the following is the earliest notice:

"A true copie of an order concerninge the Church of Prestburie as followeth: At Prestburie the 6th December, 1558, at which daie it was ordered, condescended, and agreed by us, Sir Piers Legh, knight, Sir Richard Egerton, knight, and John Warren, Esq., with the advyse and consent of dyvers of the inhabitants of the parish of Prestburie, that all such dues and laudable customes as of longe tyme have been due and accustomed to be

paid and done for the use and reparacion of the Church of Prestburie aforesaid, the ornaments therein, and other necessaries thereto belonginge, from henceforth shall be levied, paid, recyved, and used, to and for the use of the said Church as hereafter in these books annexed maie appear. In witness whereof wee have to these bookes subscribed our names. First, that a certain dutie called Serage Silver shall be levied and gathered in everie townshippe by eleven questmen of the same accordinge, and after the rate as they be sessed in a booke hereunto annexed, or more, and the same soe gathered to be brought to the Churche aforesaid yerely on the feaste daie of Saint George the Martyre, and there to be paid to such as for the time shall be appoynted to receyve the same to the onlie use of the Church. Item, that all such townshippes or anie part thereof as be nowe behinde and unpaid any of the said Serage Silver shall pay the same afore the feaste of the Circumcision of our Lord Jesus, or ells to be asyted the same daie to appear before the Bushoppe of the dyocese, or his officer accordinge to one quor. nom. now remayninge in the parish. This present year last afore written, Sir P. Legh K^t., Sir R. Egerton K^t., and John Warren Esq., were Churchwardens."

The serage silver of Prestbury parish due yearlie at the feaste of St. George the Martyr to the reparacion of the Church[5]:

Siddington	15^d	Prestburie	14^d
Titherington	9^d	Adlington	111^s
Newton	5^d	Butley	11^s 4^d
Withington	21^d	Road	23^d
Lyme Hanley	11^d	Upton	4^d
Fallibrome	1^d	Pott Shrigley	23^d
Bollington	23^d	Macclesfield	111^s
Ranowe	27^d	Henbury and Pexhill	5^d
Kettleshulme	11^d	Sutton	111^s
Birtles	3^d¼	Wincle	23^d

[5] Wincle and Sutton, comprising the district of Wildboarclough, were separated in 1695. Worth and Woodford townships are included under Poynton.

Chelford	$21^{d}\frac{1}{4}$	Mottram-Andrew	26^{d}
Bosley	$13^{d}\frac{1}{4}$	Poynton	$4^{s}\ 3^{d}$
Capesthorne	$5^{d}\frac{1}{4}$	Marton	$2^{s}\ 4^{d}$
Hurdsfield	10^{d}		

"Those persons whose names are subscrybed did agree and consent to the foresaid order as well for themselves as the rest of the parishe:

Prestbury:
- Rich^{d} Warren gent
- George Barber

Mottram:
- Rich^{d} Davenport gent
- Tho^{s} Bradburne

Butley:
- Henrie Pigott gent (Bonishall)
- John Davenporte
- Edward Newton

Bollington:
- John Shrigley
- Tho^{s} Greene

Adlington:
- John Greene
- John Bennett

Titherington:
- W^{m} Willott
- Christ^{r} Birrow
- Humphrey Swindells

Newton:
- Humphrey Lees

Poynton:
- George Hurst
- Peter Browne

Macclesfield:
- John Blagge
- John Bateman

Pott Shrigley:
- Roger Potte
- Reynold Adshead

Lyme Hanley:
- Sir P. Legh k^{t}

Kettleshulme:
- John Potte
- Nich^{s} Clayton

Henbury:
- Roger Royle

Birtles:
- J^{no} Birtles jun^{r} gent

Bosley:
- Richard Smith
- Henry Bouthe

Rode:
- John Newton
- Robert Passe

Marton:
- John Davenport
- John Warde

Withington:
- Richard Orle
- John Barne

Chelford:
- Jeffrey Duncalfe
- Peter Bateman

Fallibrome:
- Humphrey Barlowe

Sutton and Wincle:
Wm Sutton
Ranowe:
Lawrence Pott the elder
William Lowe
Hurdsfield:
Thos Potte
Upton:
Thos Stapleton
Capesthorne:
Randle Richardson
Thos Birtles
Sidington:
John Snelson"

Who Levied the Serage Silver.

1627. The churchwardens ordered to direct the precepts for the church ley unto the constable and two or three of the moste substantial and discreet men in evrie townshippe to the end it may be layd with discretion.

1636. Spent when we met to view the churche booke and to advyse who was fitt to be put in suite.

1637. Notice of a suite between the churchwardens and the court of warde on behalf of Peter Legh of Lyme, a ward, which was referred to Venables of Kinderton for arbitration. Item, sent to George Walter 40*s.* towarde the charge of the suite betwixt the parish and Lyme Hanley, when he went to London. Paid more to the counsell, and fees at London about the said suite 4*l.* 10*s.*

1638. Paid charge of suit in the spiritual court against T. Browne of Marton, William Fallows of Chelford, William Jackson of Ranow, T. Turner for lands in Hurdsfield, 4*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*

1641. Spent . . . . . at Prestburie the 15th day of June, being the day appointed for the constables to pay in their church ley.

Extracts from Wardens' Accounts, showing how the Serage Silver was raised and enforced.

Citacion 1572. Item, to one Quor. Nom. 2*s.* 6*d.* to asyte such as will not answer theire dutye to the churchwardens. Received of such as were asyted by virtue of a Q. N. for church dutyes unpaid, 9*s.* 7*d.* for 3 Quor. Nom.

1573. Item, for the charge of the church wardens goynge

twyse to my Lordd Bishoppe for the serage silver of Maxfielde, and for wrytte for the same cause, and a supplicacion for the same 4*s.* 9*d.*

1604. Goeing to Chester for an excommunication.

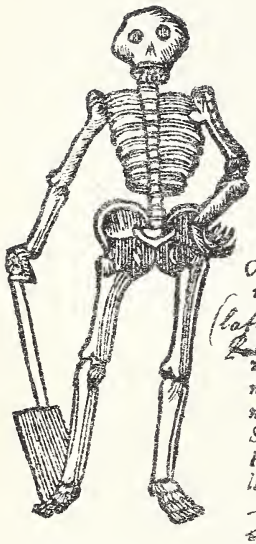
1615. Citacion and excommunication against R. Wiland.

1628. Excommunications for fifteen persons.

1630. Received of James Key and Thomas Browne who were excommunicated the laste yeare, 9*s.* Of Thomas Lowe of Marton who lykewyse stood excommunicated last year, for fees, 10*s.* 1*d.* Paid John Downes the Sheriffes Bailliffe 11 pence, when he rec[d] the significavit, and the Sheriff's Warrant for apprehending Joseph Cadon who stood excommunicated.

1638. Robert Page (warden) for goeinge to Chester toune severall tymes for cytacions and excommunications 23*s.*

1638. Suite with Old Withington: "Memorandum that it is covenanted and agreed between John Woodcock, John Byrrow, and William Barton, the churchwardens of the parish of Prestbury, and the inhabitants of the hamlet of Old Withington within the said parish that, whereas there is at present a Suite in the Consistorie Court at Chester depending betwixt the said church wardens and the constable of the said hamlett, for and concerning the said church lay due out of the said hamlett unto the parish church of Prestbury for the reparacion and other necessaries of and belonging to the said church: the inhabitants aforesaid doe hereby acknowledge themselves bound to pay their proportionable part of the said church ley to the said parish church according to the ancient custome of the parish, and accordingly as the said parishioners are enrolled in the register book and bookes of accounts belonging to the said parish, and doe acknowledge themselves bound to pay for the future their rateable part of so many serages or years' serage silver as shalle be by the parishioners in there usual meeting for any yeare to be assessed. And for the meane time as a fruite of their submission, and in satisfaction for all arrearages of the church lay unpaid and behind in the said Hamlett, and for satisfaction of



Mary Thropnie of Stow in the Wold in the County of Gloucester Spinster maketh Oath, That Dorothy Lowe the late wife of Thomas Lowe of the Parish of Bourton upon the Hill in the County aforesaid lately deceased, was not put in, wrapt or wound up, or Buried in any Shirt, Shift, Sheet or Shroud, made or mingled with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold or Silver, or other than what is made of Sheeps-wool only: Nor in any Coffin lined or faced with any Cloth, Stuff, or any other thing whatsoever made or mingled with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold or Silver, or any other Material, contrary to the late Act of Parliament for Burying in Woollen, but Sheeps Wool only. Dated the Fourth Day of March in the Fifteenth Year of the Reigns of our Sovereign Lord and Lady William & Mary by the Grace of God, King and Queen of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, &c. Annoq; Dom. 1689

Sealed and Subscribed by us who were present and Witnesses to the Swearing of the above-said Affidavit.

I John Clayre of Moreton in the one of the Justices of Peace for the Borough of Marlborough hereby Certify that the day and year above-said, the said Mary Latham came before me, and made such Affidavit as is above specified, according to a late Act of Parliament, Intituled, *An Act for Burying in Woollen.* Witness my Hand the day and year first above written.

John Clayre

The mark of the
Mary Latham

charges of the present suite to the inhabitants doe acknowledge themselves indebted to the said churchwardens in the summe of 40 shillings of current English money to be paid at the parish church of Prestbury to the churchwardens or some of them within 3 weeks next after the day of the date of these presents. Given under there hand interchangeably the 14th of March 1638. Signed, sealed, &c., in presence of us Thomas Joynson Vicar, Thos Smallwood, Humfrey Bradford, and nine others."

Serage Silver Voted during the Commonwealth.

1650. Voted a lay of six score and eight pounds seventeen shillings & sixpence, being according to the ancient church laye sixtie years serage silver.

1653. Six score years serage silver again voted to finish the church, the former having been disbursed.[6]

In 1656 the ley seems to have been enforced. "Spent on ale 1*s.* 4*d.* on the soldiers that collected the church lay. Paid to the soldiers that went into the parish to distraine. Item, for a warrant to Mr. Deane to distraine on several persons.

1657. Paid to John Helsall and Robert Downes who were hyred to distrayne for church lay."

In 1735 the wardens had troubles with Quakers: "Journey to Chelford to have Mr. Cholmondely's opinion about the obstinate quakers. Charges at several times to have gotten this lay from the Quakers."

[6] Both votes were allowed and approved by Thomas Stanley and Edward Hyde, neighbouring justices at Alderley and Norbury, who required the churchwardens to gather the same according as they have been accustomed. Countersigned by Henry Bradshaw, elder brother of John Bradshaw, the regicide. He was born in 1600 and died in 1661. Dr. Ormerod says of Henry Bradshaw that his name was first attached to a petition addressed to the houses of Parliament in July, 1646, praying for the establishment of the Presbyterian religion. He acted as magistrate under the Parliament government, and was present at the battle of Worcester, where he was wounded. His residence was Marple Hall, where his collateral descendants, the Isherwoods, still continue to live.

Extracts from Wardens' Accounts shewing the manner of Spending the Serage Silver.

1573. In this tyme was the laye for the destruction of noysome foule and vermin.

1630. Paid a boy to beat dogs forth the churche, 10*d.*[7]

1636. Spent when the new wardens should have taken the oaths, but did not, 4*s.* When they did, 8*s.* When we met to consider about hanging the little bell. Spent in considering about the bell steps 3*d.* Being Sunday, when the Mayor of Macclesfield did dine with us, & other gentlemen, and parishioners, charges then 15*s.*[8]

1709–13. 81 Foxes, and 1964 Urchins (Hedgehogs) paid for.

1711. The Gallery began to be erected, and was finished and paid for the year following, at a cost of 60*l.*

1713. Being a day of thanksgiving for the conclusion of the peace, 4*l.*[9]

1714–15. When the King (George I.) was proclaimed, 3*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* When the king came to London 1*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* Day of thanksgiving for bringing his majesty to a quiet and peaceable possession of the throne, 2*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.*[10]

1718. Paid when we had news of the Emperor's victory over the Turks.

1719. Paid at meeting, when we consulted with George Twemlin, 10*s.* Paid him for pointing the Tower, 12*l.* Spent, when we paid him, 10*s.* Dined with Mr. Pott and other company when

[7] In Chambers' *Book of Days*, vol. i. p. 423, there is an engraving from a picture painted by Henry Farley's order, in 1616, which represents a congregation listening to a sermon preached at Paul's Cross, and where the "whip dog" is seen in the act of driving away the dogs.

[8] In 1636, 20*l.* were spent in refreshments, out of a ley of 79*l.*

[9] 33*l.* were spent in refreshments this year, possibly in helping Uncle Toby and Corporal Trim to fight Marlborough's wars over again.

[10] 36*l.* were spent in rejoicings this year, out of a total of 120*l.* Some murmurings arose, and 12*l.* were struck of the 36*l.*, only to be replaced next year.

he consented to remove the gravestone. Charges this year for treating strange ministers. Treating a clergyman and his father. Treating a clergyman *2s. 2d.* Another neighbour clergyman *2s. 4d.* Treating two ministers from Macclesfield. Treating a strange clergyman and his company.

1729. At a public vestry meeting for the encouragement of persons to destroy foxes with which this neighbourhood and parish is now much infested ; it is ordered that five shillings shall be paid for every fox head taken and killed within the parish of Prestbury, the head whereof being brought to one or more of the churchwardens within the space of five days, or upon the next Sunday after the fox is so taken and killed, provided always that he who brings the fox head, or some other sufficient person coming along with him, shall, if required, give and declare upon oath, before some lawful magistrate, that the said fox was taken and killed within the parish precincts, and also within the time limited.

1730. Meeting to consider about otters, *7s. 6d.* Offered for a full grown otter, 5s. For a young one . . . . . .

1732. Meeting to consider about moles or waunts, a great detriment to meadow, or pasture land. *6d.* a day offered, three halfpence each if killed in a garden so called, cultivated, or used. The payments for 40 foxes this year were *10l.*, for 50 otters *1l. 15s. 0d.*, and for 1320 moles, *11l. 8s. 0d.* Paid to whip-dog *10d.*

1733. Spent on ourselves and other parishioners who came expecting to see the new vicar, *5s.* Spent when the newspapers gave account of the day when the Prince of Orange was to be married, and another day when he was married, *6l. 5s.*

1744. Paid for ordinaries, and extraordinaries, for us and communicants . . . . . Spent at Mr. Tankard's on the fast day *5s.* Battle of Dettingen . . . . . Horse hire to London to find a person to make one garland. Given to officers of Wilmslow when a pattern was taken for a frame to dress the garland on. For gold, and dressing the garland, which is fixed in the church

in honour and memory of the glorious battle of Dettingen. Spent when fixed up, in drinking the king's health . . . . . .

1745. Paid for umbrella, box, and carriage 3*l.* Paid for nineteen dinners for communicants, 12*s.* 8*d.* For liquor for us and communicants, 11*s.* 10*d.*

1765. New west wall of churchyard built.

1772. In this year two hundred and eighty dinners were paid for, besides 6*l.* for weekly allowances.

1779. Given to ringers when the Emperor was chosen . . . . . Spent when Mr. Atkinson gave us a sermon . . . . . Spent when Mr. Atkinson gave us two sermons, 3*s.* 6*d.* For joy of the King of Sardinia's victory, given to the ringers 5*s.*

Holy Bread Silver Levied in the Latter Part of the 16th Century.

1572. Received money for bread & wine for the Communion, commonly called "Holy bread Silver," from Upton 8*d.*, from Capesthorne 6*d.*, &c.

In 1584 the holy bread silver was refused, whereupon the following entry was made:

"Paid for a Quor. Nom. or Citacion for Mr. Thornycroft and his fellows which refused there money for bread and wyne."

"Received from Mr. Thornycroft Jeoffrey Wilkinson &c. for charge of a suite commenced against them for bread and wyne, or money for the same, & the charge of the said suites."

Afterwards, it was agreed that each township should provide bread and wine for its own inhabitants, as follows:

"Also order is taken by the worshipful of this parish and the rest of the parishioners that henceforth every townshippe shall fynde breade and wyne only for the inhabitants of the same towne, and provyde it so as no lacke shall be when a communyon is to be hade; but if any receyve he shall provyde breade & wyne so as neyther the churchwardens nor curate shall stand charged henceforth untyle new order is taken."

Vicars of Prestbury from Time of Publication of Dr. Ormerod's History.

Rev. John Rowlls Browne died May, 1843; and was succeeded by the Rev. Henry Pearson, who died June, 1858; and was succeeded by the Rev. Stephen Lea Wilson, honorary canon of Chester, who is the present vicar. Charles Richard Banastre Legh, Esq., patron.

BUTLEY AND BONISHALL; AND PIGOT OF BUTLEY, AND OF BONISHALL.

After the dispossession of Hundin, the Saxon tenant, Butley came into the possession of Richard, son of Hugh Lupus the first Norman Earl of Chester, who held it until his death by drowning in 1120. From this date there is no direct evidence of ownership for the space of a century, though probably the manor devolved on the successive Norman Earls of Chester, and was used by them for hunting purposes, as it contained a "hay."

In Earl Hugh's time mention is made of three generations of the family of Pigot, viz.: Robert, son of Gilbert Pigot; Gilbert, son of — Pigot, and Robert his brother; but they are not styled of Butley.

"Hugo com̄ cestr Constabulaī Dapifero et omnibus Baronibus suis, &c., salutm sciatis me dedisse concesisse et presenti carta mei confirmasse in feodo et hereditate et in libero burgagio Nichaō filio Liulfi et heredibus suis, et heredibus meis anno et die quo ipē Liulfus fuit vivus et mortuus. Testibus Ric. de . . . . . , Waltero le Brett, Gilberto filio Picot, W. Waschet, Henrico Mansell, Rogero Luntot Frumbaldo, Willo filio Ricardi, Roberto filio Gilberti Pigot," &c.

To another charter of Earl Hugh's given at Lee to Ralph Menilwaring, and Alice, the earl's daughter, the names of Gilbert son of Pigot, and Robert his brother, appear as witnesses.

In Burke's *Commoners* (v. iii. p. 192) mention is made of Gilbert Pigot as a benefactor to Poulton abbey in the year 1210.

Another Gilbert Pigot who died in 1267 is known to have been of Butley. From this time, for the space of three hundred years, Butley continued to be held by successive generations of this family, sometimes in chief under the king, as earl of Chester, and sometimes as mesne lords. On the failure of heirs male, Butley passed to a collateral member of the same family settled at Chetwynd, in Shropshire, as will appear presently. Afterwards

it passed by sale to the Leghs of Adlington, with whose descendants the entire township still rests, with the exception of the hall and some lands adjacent, which were purchased by Mr. W. C. Brocklehurst in 1861. Butley hall overlooks the village of Prestbury, and is a house of fair proportions. No part of it is very ancient. The tops of the leaden spouts have the arms of Downes, viz., a hart lodged, and the date, 1777, worked in relief. The front is of ashlar stone, and quite modern.

Originally, there were two families of Pigot who came to England with the Conqueror. One was hereditary viscount and baron of Boorne in Cambridgeshire, and the other was settled in Wales and the Marches. In the reign of Henry I. the Lord of Powys married a daughter of the Lord Pigot, called of Say, in Normandy, who had a son, Henry, from whom the Pigots of Cheshire, Shropshire, and Flintshire descend. (Burke.)

Gilbert Pigot, who was lord of Broxton, and who died in 1267, had a son Robert, who succeeded him, and whose name is attached to a Davenport deed prior to 1272. He granted the vill of Chelford to the monks of Saint Werburg's monastery at Chester. (See *Charter*, Ormerod, vol. i.)

Robert Pigot was succeeded by his son William, whose name appears in the monastery charters as having confirmed his father's gift, and as quit claiming the mill at Butley, &c., to the abbot and monks. He died in 1287, 16 Edward I., as his *post mortem* inquisition shows.

He appears to have been succeeded by William Pigot, whose name is attached to a deed dated 1297, and executed at Macclesfield, in which Adam le Bray of Godelegh granted some lands in Wilmslow to John, son and heir of Edmund Fitton of Bollin. (Trafford deed copied by Canon Raines.)

He seems to have been succeeded by Edward Pigot. In a deed quoted by Dr. Ormerod, vol. iii. p. 36, Sir Thomas Davenport claimed puture from the abbot of Chester, from two tenants in Butley, held of the gift of Edward Pigot. This was sometime between 1307 and 1327. Ed. II.

His successor was William Pigot, whose history is best set forth in the following *post mortem* inquisition: "William Pigot died seized in fee of a moiety of the manor of Butley, which said William formerly held the said manor from Hugh le Despenser, who held it from the earl *in capite* by military service, which said Hugh forfeited it, by reason whereof the said William at the time of his death held it immediately from the said earl by the like service. He also died seized in fee of a certain parcel of land in Smethwick, which he held from the lord of Smethwick in socage. He died on Thursday next after the raising of the holy cross, 50 Edward III., leaving John, his son, upwards of twenty-two years, his next heir."

John Pigot held Butley by the same tenure as his father. He was one of the justices itinerant for Cheshire. (Cheshire, Chamberlain's accounts.) He died in 1394, and was succeeded by John Pigot, who held Butley under the Despensers in the 6th Henry VI., 1427. He also held rents issuing out of Old Foxwist, and Newton in Butley. His name occurs as one of the justices itinerant for Macclesfield Hundred in 1402 and 1413. (Ormerod.)

He appears to have been succeeded by a son also named John Pigot, who, in 1420, witnessed a deed executed at Chorley in company of Lawrence Fitton, Christopher Davenport, and others. In it he is styled John Pigot senior.

Whether his son succeeded or no, remains uncertain; but the direct descent is resumed in the person of John Pigot of Butley, whose *post mortem* inquisition is dated 1512, 4 Henry VIII. He had two sons, viz.: Robert Pigot, who succeeded him; and George Pigot, who settled at Bonishall in Butley, and who married Catherine, daughter of Henry Henshaw of Henshaw, in Siddington.

Robert Pigot died in 1535, 27 Henry VIII., leaving one son, Thomas, and four daughters.

Thomas Pigot died without issue, leaving four sisters and coheiresses. His *post mortem* inquisition, dated 6 Edward VI.,

1552, is as follows: "Thomas Pygotte tenuit terras et tenementas suas in Butlege una cum terris et tenementis in Olde Foxwiste, Newton, et Leehall, de Domino Rege ut comes Cestrie fœd. milit." 6 Edward VI. One of his sisters, the inheritrix of a fourth part of Butley, married Francis Clinton of Herefordshire.

The family of Pigot of Chetwynd, in Shropshire, took rise from the Pigots of Butley in the reign of Henry VI., when Richard, a younger son of John Pigot of Butley, married the daughter and co-heiress of Sir R. Peshale of Chetwynd. (Burke.) The name of Richard Pigot occurs as justice itinerant of Macclesfield Hundred at this time, but his identity with Richard Pigot of Chetwynd is doubtful.

Richard Pigot, the first of Chetwynd, had a son, John, who married a daughter of Robert Legh of Adlington. He died in his father's lifetime, leaving issue Robert, who succeeded his grandfather in the Chetwynd possessions. Richard Pigot, the first of Chetwynd, dying in 1440, 19 Henry VI., was succeeded, as before said, by his grandson Robert, who married a daughter of Sir John Blunt, and had issue Thomas, married to Elizabeth Gatacre, from whom the Pigots of Chetwynd descend (*vide* Burke). As already said, Thomas Pigot joined with his father in the sale of their portion of Butley to Sir Edward Warren.

The Pigots of Bonishall, descended from George Pigot younger son of John Pigot of Butley (temp. Henry VIII.) and Catherine Henshaw. They flourished there for five generations, after which the family migrated into Lancashire in consequence of the marriage of George Pigot with the daughter and co-heiress of Robert Parkinson of Fairsnape, near Preston.

The manor of Butley did not long remain a possession of the Pigots after the death of Thomas Pigot in 1552. In 24 Elizabeth Thomas Legh of Adlington bought a moiety of it from Sir Edward Warren and dame Susan his wife, who had bought the same from Sir Thomas Gerard about five years previously, which Sir Thomas had purchased it, in 20 Elizabeth, from Robert Pigot of Chetwynd and Thomas his son, to whom this moiety presum-

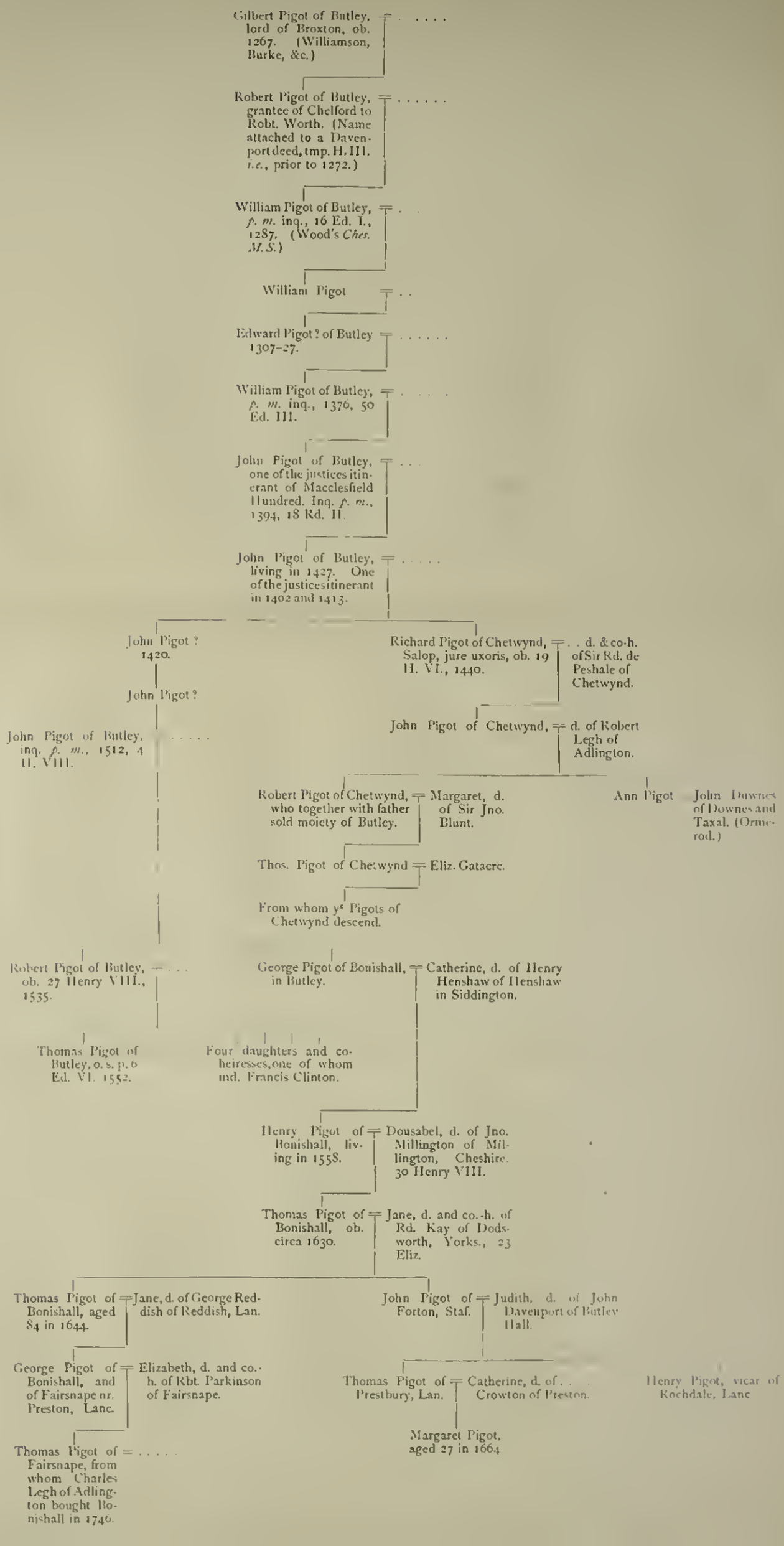
ably devolved by will of two of the co-heiresses. A further part of Butley went, by purchase, to Philip Worth of Titherington, from another of the co-heiresses.

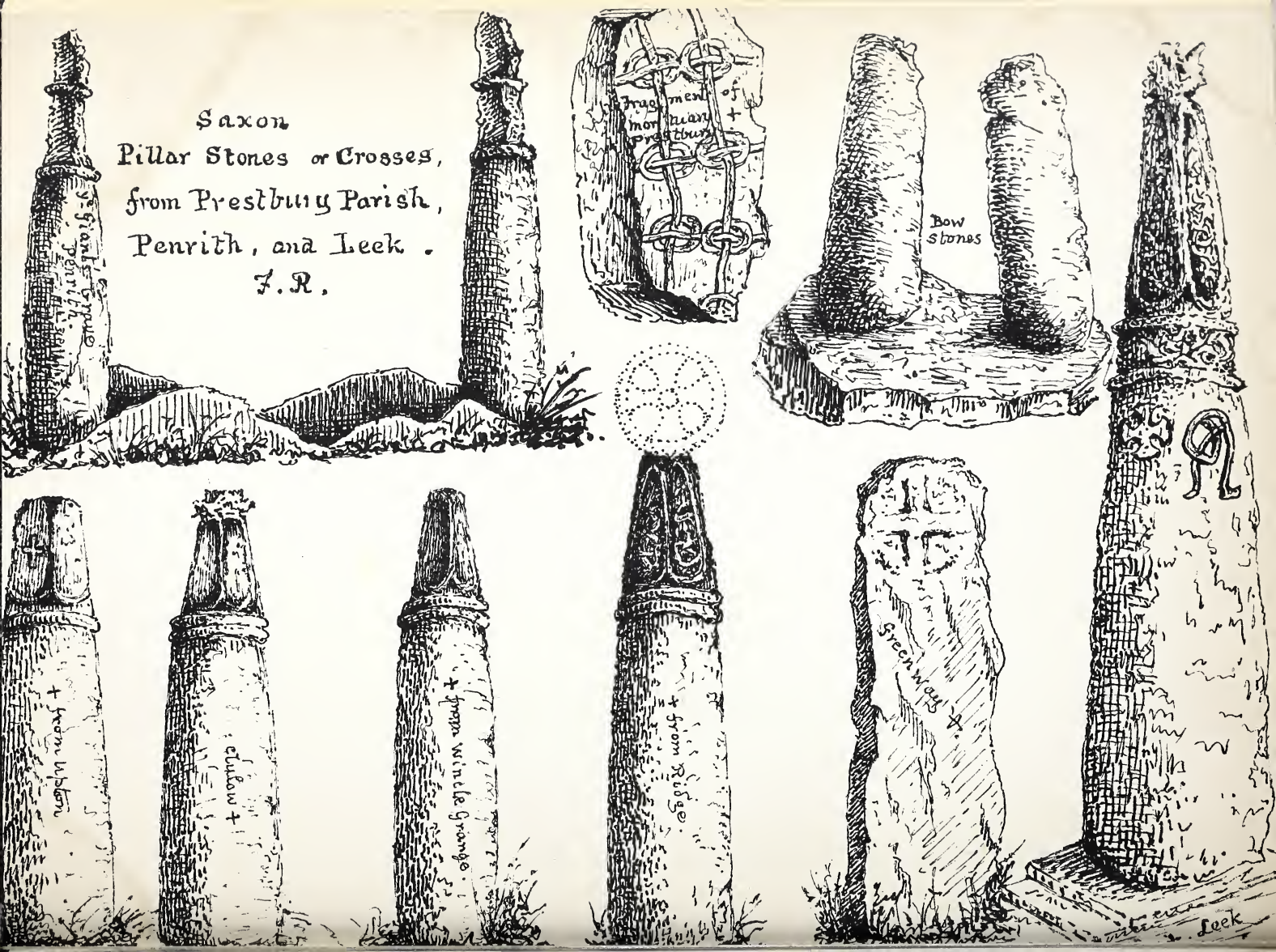
In the same year (*i.e.*, 24 Elizabeth), Thomas Legh bought another fourth of the manor from Nicholas Moseley (at that time lord mayor of London, and ancestor of the Moseleys lords of the manor of Manchester) and Rowland his son, Nicholas Moseley having previously come into possession by purchase from Francis, or from Ivo Clinton, in the county of Hereford, the latter of whom had married one of the sisters and co-heiresses of Thomas Pigot. By these several acquisitions, the Leghs of Adlington became possessors of a large part of the manor, which was further augmented by the purchase of Bonishall, in 1746, by Charles Legh, from Thomas Pigot of Bonishall, who migrated to Fairsnape, near Preston.

The whole descent of the Pigots of Bonishall and Preston is given in the eighty-eighth volume of the Chetham Society's publications, p. 233.

The arms borne by the families of Pigot of Butley, Chetwynd, and Bonishall, were ermine three mascles conjoined in fess sable. Crest, a wolf's head erased.

Pigot of Butley, Chetwynd, and Bonishall.




Saxon
Pillar Stones or Crosses,
from Prestbury Parish,
Penrith, and Leek.
F.R.
Fragmen of
mortuary
Prestbury
Bow
stones
Penrith
Leek

CROSSES, AND OTHER STONE MEMORIALS, WITHIN PRESTBURY PARISH.

Within the parish of Prestbury, and, for the most part, within the old boundaries of the royal forest of Macclesfield, there are several single and double stone crosses, which have long exercised the ingenuity of antiquaries. No less than eleven of these crosses remain, whilst others are known to have been destroyed and demolished through various causes. By some they have been thought to have a Danish origin. Others have considered them Saxon, and others again have opined that they are not only Norman, but that they were erected by the monks of Combermere abbey in the 12th century.

For a long time I held the opinion that they were the work of those early Normans who settled in Cheshire under Hugh Lupus, and who might naturally enough copy the chain tracery ornamentation of their Saxon predecessors in working out the details of such comparatively simple structures; but the weight of evidence in favour of an earlier date is so strong and cumulative that I am constrained to relinquish a once cherished theory in favour of that which now seems to be a more plausible and truthful explanation.

To save the necessity of a description tediously minute, the accompanying illustration is inserted, so that, at a glance, the salient features of all the crosses may be recognised. Two crosses not within the parish are added for the sake of comparison.

There are four double-socketed crosses which trace a line, more or less direct, from the village of Prestbury to the village of Mottram-in-Longdendale, or to the Roman castle of Melandra adjacent, on the extreme verge of the hundred of Macclesfield. The first stands on the edge of Lyme Park, adjoining Shrigley, nigh to a farmhouse known as "Bowstones" farm, so called after the crosses, which are known as the "Bowstones." These pillars or crosses stand about four feet out of a double-socketed base of

unhewn rock. The tops have been either broken off or have decayed through age and weather. Two miles further away, at the edge of a bleak hill known as "Longside," there is the basement socket of a similar double cross. The crosses are now gone altogether, though Mr. Marriot found the remnant of one in 1810.

About the same distance further away, towards Disley village, there used until recently to be another double-socketed cross, called "Jordan Law Cross," which differed from the rest in having a true crucial outline, and being enriched with chain tracery ornamentation. The socket has been removed, but the cross is preserved in the domestic chapel at Lyme hall.

Further away, at Mellor Moor end, another cross stands, so like to the one at Bowstone farm, that no further description of it is needed. This cross is now known as "Robin Hood's picking pegs," and its site is often called "Ludworth intakes."

All these four crosses appear to have been erected at one particular period, and, like the "white bore stone" formerly standing near Shrigley, seem to have served the purpose of mere or boundary stones, or landmarks. This latter term, landmark, recommends itself most strongly because three out of four stood within the heart of the forest where there were no boundary lines; and because all four stones take a course consistent with that casual but difficult inter-communication which would arise between two places of known existence in early days. The terms Bowstone, Borestone, Bawdastone, are identical, and in the Danish language signify tall slender stones set upright, either singly or in groups. As a rule, these stones are three or more ells in height, and are devoid of any inscription, either in Sweden or Norway. *(Guide to Northern Archæology.)* "Low," again, is a Danish terminal, as in Knight's low and Shutling's low, both of which hills are in Prestbury parish, on the summit of the latter of which there are two rude upright stones, which were described and figured by the Rev. Dr. Marriot in 1810. On the other hand, the words Bowstone and Borestone may be

understood as corruptions of Horestone, whilst the word horestone itself would appear to be nothing more or less than a corruption of the Saxon "haran stan" (or stone, or stane, as stone is commonly called in Yorkshire at this day.) Whichever etymology recommends itself the most, the conclusion seems to be almost inevitable that these crosses were not erected by the Normans, and that they date back to the Saxon times at the latest. Several years ago, with the permission of Mr. Thomas Legh, a deep excavation was made beneath the Bowstone cross to ascertain whether any burial had taken place under it; but though the excavation was continued till the virgin rock was reached, it was manifest to all present that the ground had never before been disturbed.

The next group of single crosses or pillar stones, with single or double fillets round the upper part of the shaft, is found at Fallibrome, Wincle, Clulow, Ridge, Adlington, &c. Some of them have plain chamfered tops, and others have the chamferings ornamented with chain tracery. Some are larger, loftier, and more pretentious than others, but they one and all partake of the same character and design as the mortuary cross at Leek, and at Ilam. Leek, though in Staffordshire, was only separated from the royal forest of Macclesfield by the river Dane. The double-pillar cross in Penrith churchyard, known now as "the giant's grave," is another of the same date and construction. One and all have without doubt been embellished with crosses at their summits, wrought out patonce-wise, and circumscribed with a nimbus, as is drawn in dotted outline on the cross once at Ridge, but now removed with two others to Macclesfield public park.

Mr. J. Britton *(Architectural Antiquities of England)* says that when he visited the double cross in Penrith churchyard in 1807, its height was eleven feet, and that there was a cross on the top of each in relief; also that the shafts were ornamented with fret work, &c.; and the distance of one pillar from the other was fifteen feet. Leek cross is ten feet in height.

The exact purposes served by these crosses in Prestbury parish

are very questionable, seeing that they are nearly all placed within the precincts of the royal forest, or immediately adjacent, and in a very irregular fashion as regards the topography at the present time. They may have marked out *trysting* places where forest paths met,

> "By a fforest gan they mete
> Wer a *cros* stoode in a strete."

or they may possibly have indicated the humble abodes of pious Saxon anchorites from St. Werburg's monastery at Chester, who dwelt within the forest precincts, offering alike shelter to the belated, and short and ready shrift to many an outlawed felon who chanced to fall into the hands of the forest rangers, and whose body would as shortly, as surely, depend from the nearest oaken branch.

The circumstance that three of these crosses in later days are found to be in close proximity to manorial and ecclesiastical residences, in no way militates against either of the above inferences, seeing that they own an antiquity far greater than the present halls of Adlington and Ridge, or the grange at Wincle. The real or supposed sanctity of these venerable relics of a bygone era would be much more likely to have determined the building sites of the above-named places.

These crosses are consistent in design with the small fragment of a mortuary cross preserved until recently at Prestbury village, and figured in the drawing.

As all the crosses have an architectural resemblance, the only way to speculate on their respective uses is to consider their names on the one part, and their localities on the other. The double-socketed ones are so designated and placed as to indicate that they served as landmarks. Three, being found in churchyards, are readily recognised as mortuary crosses. The remainder are so scattered about that neither of the above uses can strictly be assigned to them. When they were set up, the country was a tangled forest, whereas now it is, for the most part, under cultivation. Whether woodland paths and roads intersected each

other where the crosses stand cannot now be determined, neither can it be averred, with any degree of certainty, that they marked out the cells of anchorites. That they were erected under ecclesiastical supervision is evident from their design; and, reasoning from design to use, it is moderately certain that they were intended to fulfil some function more or less associated with the religious beliefs and usages of a time perhaps not very far antecedent to the invasion of the Normans.

Greenway cross, in Sutton, has a design in many respects different to all the foregoing. It is a wayside cross, carved on the top of a rough and unhewn flat stone, and may be of any early period. Nevertheless, the English word greenway is derived from the Saxon "grenan weyes," as Mr. Hamper pointed out in the *Archæologia* of 1820.

Stone Relics of the Plague in Prestbury Parish.

This scourge left few districts in England unvisited, at different times, and did not spare Prestbury parish. The record handed down, so far as one of the visitations is concerned, shows that it made its appearance at the Bowstone farm, near to which four tombstones lying flat in the heather yet attest the fact of its ravages. Concerning this outbreak of plague at Bowstone and Browside farms, it is traditionally recorded that the dread scourge made its appearance there in 1646, and that the infection was brought in a bundle sent from London. The reality of the outbreak is attested by three flat grave stones that lie on these bleak uplands, whilst the fragment of a fourth stone has been utilised as a doorstep.

Inspired with a terror so common to persons in plague-smitten districts, it is said that provisions, fixed on the ends of long poles, were passed through the windows to those who suffered, by those who had hitherto escaped. Two families lived within a quarter of a mile of each other, whose names were Mackewal and Hampson respectively; and two stones of memorial are devoted

to each, marked with the date 1646. On one of them, to the memory of Elizabeth Hampson, this moral reflection is engraved:

> "Think it not strange our bones lie here
> Thine may lie thou knowest not where."

To many, the date 1646 may sound strange, as 1665 is best known as the year of the great plague in London so graphically described by De Foe, and which immediately preceded the equally great fire. With the exception of this latter date, but little has been recorded, though several visitations of this direful disease spread terror and death through England prior to this last and great outbreak. The years recognised as plague years are 1593, 1603, 1625, 1636, 1640, 1646, and 1665; but the plague was fatal in London out of all proportion in 1625 and 1665.

A plain stone, inscribed "E. S., July 10, 1665," marks the site of a grave in a field near a house formerly built by Edmund Duncalf, in 1607, at Chorley in Cheshire.

Macclesfield was visited by plague in 1603 and 1646, and on each of these occasions Greenway cross was used as a "plague cross," to which country people came to sell their provisions to the dwellers in the town. The practice was for the sellers to place their goods near to the cross and then to retire, after which the townspeople came and paid the price marked, letting the money fall into a basin or socket filled with water, by which process all infection was supposed to be destroyed. The double-socket stone at Stretford was used in this way when the plague ravaged Manchester.

The late Mr. Thomas Legh of Lyme mentions the continuance of this practice of passing money through water during the outbreak of plague he witnessed at Alexandria, and he speaks of it as being thought the only efficacious way of destroying the plague germs that attach themselves to money carried near the person.

ADLINGTON, AND LEGH OF ADLINGTON.

Adlington is, and has always been, one of the most noteworthy townships in Prestbury parish. The first-known possessor of this manor was the Saxon earl Edwin. After him the Norman earls of Chester held it as a valuable possession. When they died out, it lapsed to the crown in 21 Henry III. Then it came to Hugh de Corona by royal grant, and, after continuing in this family for three generations, passed to the Leghs of Adlington by deed of gift, as will shortly be explained.

It probably is the same as Edwin's town, and is the Edulvintune of Domesday. The name is derived from its being a residence of the Saxon earl Edwin, earl of Chester and Coventry. Edwin, and his brother Morcar, were two of Harold's chief generals at the battle of Hastings. Edwin retreated from the battle, after Harold's death, with a part of the English army; but, on making his submission to William y^e^ Conqueror, was allowed to retain his possessions till the year 1070. At this latter date he took part with the Northumbrians in their attempt to bring in the Danes and was dispossessed, and shortly afterwards murdered. William I., after this event, gave the Saxon earl's lands in the county palatine of Chester to Hugh Lupus, who retained Adlington in his own hands, probably as a hunting seat, as it was noted for having seven game enclosures and four eyries at the time of the survey. Adlington appears to have remained an appenage of the succeeding Norman earls till the death of John Scott, the seventh and last, when it passed to the crown in 21 Henry III.

Soon after, the manor was in the holding of Hugh de Corona, and remained in this family till the reign of Edward III. Hugh de Corona was lord of Adlington temp. Henry III., and also the possessor of the manors of Little Neston, Hargreave, and Penisby-in-Wirral About the year 1270 Hugh de Corona gave his lands in Penisby (which he had shortly before purchased of Hugh the

prior and the brethren of y^e^ hospital of St. John of Chester) to his daughter Sarah, and her heirs (deed *penes* Legh). He also granted to Richard de Worth, and his heirs, all the land which Wasse de l'Hope formerly held of him in the ville of Adlington, and an enclosure for tillage adjacent to the said land, ascending Holbrook, and rendering thirteen shillings and sixpence at the feast of All Souls. The deed is without date, but is attested by Sir Geoffrey de Chedle, William de Baggiley, John de Mottram, and others, who lived in the time of Edward I. (*MS. penes* Legh.) These lands passed from the Worths to the Downes's, and remained in the latter family till the year 1696, when they reverted to John Legh by purchase from Edward Downes.

Hugh de Corona seems to have had a brother John, whose name appears amongst the Tower charters in this same reign of Henry III. "Extunc' terræ Joh'is de Corona in cest."

Hugh de Corona married Amabilla the daughter of Sir Thomas de Bamville, and left issue one son, Hugh, and two daughters, Lucy and Sarah.

Hugh de Corona, the second of Adlington, married, and left a son, John, who was lord of the manor of Adlington in the reign of Edward II. "John de Corona held the manor of Adlington and the manor of little Neston. Thomas de Corona is his son and heir" (Tower records, 22 Edward II). The Christian name of John's wife was Margaret.

Thomas de Corona died unmarried about the middle of the reign of Edward III., and so the male line failed. During his lifetime, by a deed without date, he gave to John de Lassells all the land which Lucy de Corona held of his inheritance in the ville of Newton-in-Wirrall, and which came to him by the gift of his grandfather, Hugh de Corona, and all the land which Margaret, who was wife of John de Corona, held of his inheritance in Newton-in-Wirrall, by gift of his father, John de Corona. (*MS. penes* R. Wood.)

Lucy, daughter of the first Hugh de Corona, married for second husband Sir William Baggiley, and had issue by him one son,

who died without issue, and two daughters named Ellen and Isabel, which last married Sir John de Hyde.

Nothing is known of Sarah, the sister of Lucy, and it seems likely that she either died single, or, if married, left no offspring.

Ellen, daughter of Lucy de Corona, married Sir John Legh, son of Sir William Venables of Bradwell, and called "de Legh" from having been left to the care of his mother, whose maiden name was Legh, and which was also the name of the place where he was born, and where he lived till his marriage. From this marriage the Leghs of Adlington descend.

Sir John de Legh and Ellen his wife purchased Norbury Booths (28 Edward I.), and there fixed their residence. Sir John died in 1323, and his wife in 1350.

Thomas de Corona, the last of his line, having no issue, gave a moiety of Adlington to John and Ellen Legh for life, with remainder to Robert their second son, and his heirs, by a deed bearing date in y^e^ early part of y^e^ reign of Edward II. "Thomas de Corona grants to John de Legh and Ellen his wife all his part of the manor and vill of Adlington (except the lands which Margaret his mother, and Lucy formerly wife of Hugh de Corona had in dower) to hold to the said John and Ellen for their lives." This John is probably the same who is called "John de Adlington" in a presentment against twelve persons for hunting in the king's forest with hounds and horns, and destroying deer, and finally joining in an affray with the keepers. 13 Edward II. (Ormerod.)

In 9 Edward II., Thomas de Corona gave to John and Ellen Legh all the rest of his lands in Adlington previously held in dower by Lucy and Margaret. After this grant was made, Queen Isabella, wife of Edward II., seized Adlington manor, alleging that Thomas de Corona had forfeited it to her by reason of the alienation having been made without her license, as the same was held of her as of her manor of Macclesfield.

In 17 Edward II., John de Legh being lately dead, Ellen, his widow obtained a re-grant of the Adlington manor, on her purchasing a pardon from the Queen. To this pardon a fair seal of

Queen Isabella is affixed, from which it would appear that the Queen held Macclesfield to her own separate use, even whilst her husband was king. (See illustration.)

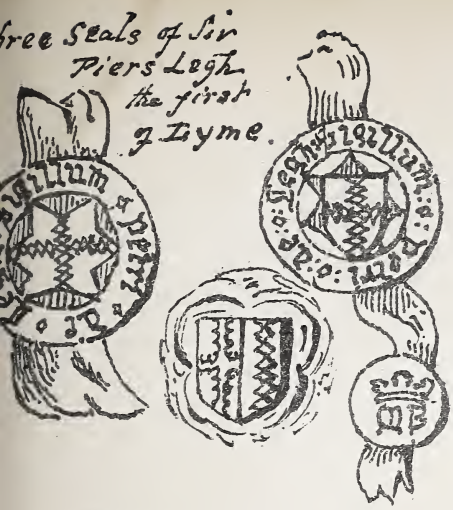
She used to be styled "the Lady of Macclesfield," and enjoyed the emoluments far into the reign of Edward III., as the following, extracted from the *Adlington MS.* (in the Chetham Library) shows: "Thomas of Poker of Macclesfield was summoned to answer his lord the earl of a plea by what warrant he claimed to have the bailliwick of Pokarie of the hundred of Macclesfield in fee within the liberty of Dame Isabel Queen of England Ladye of Macclesfield. That is to say to make extension and return of all writ and precept of the Lord the earl within y^e^ precinct of the hundred of Macclesfield, &c. And also to make execution of all pleas moved before Dame Isabel, or her baillies. And also to levy all fines, amercements, rents, and monies due to the said dame Isabel, and to account thereof at Macclesfield, and make yearly payments at y^e^ feast of St. Michael, for all things concerning her sword and dignity."

After this exercise of prerogative on the Queen's part, Thomas de Corona thought fit to make a further deed of grant, which he executed at Chester in 17 Edward III., and in which he quit claimed to Robert de Legh, senior, and his heirs and assigns, all the claim he ever had in the manor of Adlington, &c. In witness whereof he affixed his seal in y^e^ presence of the justice of Chester, John de Legh, Hugh de Venables, Sir John Danyers, Sir Thomas Danyers of Spurstow, Robert de Bulkylegh, and others.

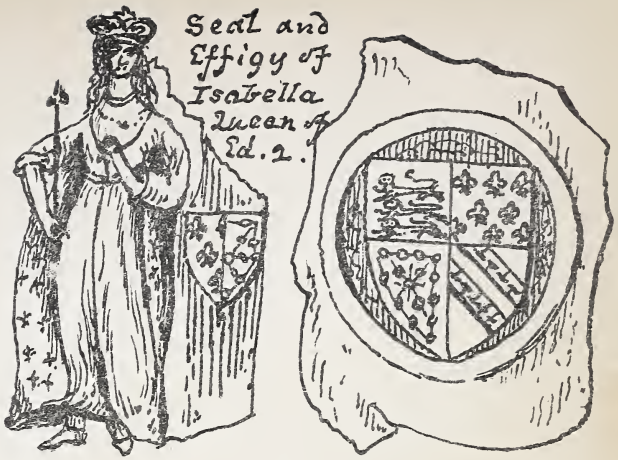
To several of Thomas de Corona's deeds a fair seal was attached, bearing a chevron between three crowns, and circumscribed "Sigillum Thomæ de Coroun." (See illustration.)

Ellen de Legh continued in the enjoyment of the manor of Adlington till her death in 26 Edward III. By an inquisition held the same year, it was found that she died seized of the manor of Adlington for life, held of the manor of Macclesfield, in chief, by the service of a fourth part of a knight's fee, and that Sir John de Legh was her heir.

hree Seals of Sir Piers Legh the first of Lyme.



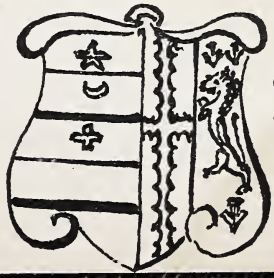
Seal and Effigy of Isabella Queen of Ed. 2.



eal
homas
rona
lington.

Shields of arms & crests from Savage Chapel Macclesfield.

uartered Shield of
egh of Lyme from Lyme
Hall A.D. 1606



Three armorial shields on the Altar Tomb of Lady Mary Egerton in Astbury Church, Cheshire

Sir John de Legh was heir to the Norbury Booths estate, &c., as eldest son; but Adlington passed to Robert Legh, as already stated. In addition to all former grants made by Thomas de Corona, he executed a further one the year after the death of Ellen Legh. It bore date 27 Edward III., and set forth that he released all his rights in the manor of Adlington to Robert and his heirs, by the name of Robert de Legh the elder. (Deed *penes* Legh.) And so it came to pass that this manor passed to the Leghs, who continued to enjoy it, with divers other purchased possessions, &c., in uninterrupted succession from father to son until the death of Charles Legh, Esq., without surviving male issue, in 1781.

Afterwards the manors of Adlington, Butley, and Prestbury, devolved on Thomas Crosse of Shaw Hill, Lancashire, through the female descent, who assumed the name of Legh, and in whose descendant, Charles Richard Banastre Legh, these estates are now vested. Having now traced the territorial descent as far as Ellen and John de Legh, I proceed to speak of the derivation of the family of Legh.

The Leghs derive their descent from Eudo, or Eules, the second of that name, earl of Blois, Byre, and Chartres, who was slain in 1037 by Gozeled, duke of Lorraine, whose territory he had invaded. He left issue Theobald, eldest son, Gilbert or le Galliard, the younger son, and Alexia, a daughter.

Theobald succeeded to the honours and possessions of his father, but, losing Tours to Geoffrey Martell, he died of grief in 1047. His son, Stephen, subsequently recovered Tours; and his grandson, Stephen, was king of England.

Gilbert, the younger son, assumed the name of Venables, *(venator abilis)*, and was the common ancestor of the Leghs. He engaged with William duke of Normandy in his expedition against England, and was knighted by the Conqueror on the battlefield of Hastings. For his services there, and for many others afterwards against the forces of Edgar Atheling, and against the Welsh, he had large possessions bestowed on him in

Cheshire and elsewhere. In 20 William I. he appears to have been one of the eight barons of Chester, under Hugh Lupus, the earl.

Gilbert was married before coming into England, and had a son who succeeded to his lands in Tourraine; but his first wife dying, he married again, after coming into England, Margery. daughter of Waltheof, son of Wolfric lord of Hatton, by whom he had issue William de Venables, who succeeded to the barony of Kinderton, and Amabilla, who married Richard de Davenport.

To William de Venables Gilbert succeeded; and to Gilbert Sir William. To Sir William Sir Hugh succeeded; and to Sir Hugh Sir Roger. To Sir Roger Sir William succeeded. He had two sons Sir Hugh de Venables, who succeeded him in the barony of Kinderton, and William, to whom his father gave Bradwell, near Sandbach, and with whom the present pedigree of Legh is directly concerned.

William de Venables of Bradwell married, for his first wife, Catherine daughter of Sir Piers Thornton, knight, by whom he had issue one son, William de Venables, afterwards of Bradwell. He next married Agnes, daughter and heiress of Richard de Legh of the West Hall (then widow of Richard de Lymme, or Limm), by whom he had issue John, who, as already said, was called de Legh, and who became the first of Norbury Booths.

Agnes was entitled to a moiety of the manor of High Legh, by descent from her father, Richard de Legh, and to several other estates, all of which, with the exception of a farm in High Legh, she either gave or suffered to descend to Thomas, her son by the first marriage, from whom the Leghs of High Legh are descended, as well as those of West Hall.

John de Legh (or Venables) and Ellen (de Corona) his wife had four sons, viz.: John de Legh of Booths; Robert de Legh of Adlington; William de Legh of Isall in Cumberland, from whom descended Sir William Legh, bart., lord chief justice of England, and the Leghs of Rowcliffe and Eggington; and Peter de Legh of Bechton, *jure uxoris*, Agnes daughter and heiress of Philip de Bechton. This latter had issue Margaret, who married Thomas

Fitton of Gawsworth; and another daughter married to Thomas Davenport of Henbury. They were co-heiresses, and shared between them Bechton and the other paternal estates. It now remains to continue the descent of the Leghs of Adlington.

Robert Legh, the first of Adlington, sat as justice in eyre at Macclesfield, and was one of the king's stewards of the manor and forest of Macclesfield. From deeds (*penes* Legh) it seems that he resided for the most part in Macclesfield, and he is often described as Robert Legh of Macclesfield. He married, first, Sibyll, daughter of Henry de Honford, or Handforth, and by her had issue a son Robert, who succeeded him. For second wife he married Maud, daughter and heiress of Sir Adam de Norley of Northleigh-in-Pemberton, in the county of Lancaster. According to an old *MS.* pedigree (*penes* Wood) she was his second cousin, and must have been very much his junior. By her he had issue Peter, the first of Lyme, and John, the first of Ridge. He had also several daughters, one of whom, by the first wife, married William Radcliffe of Radcliffe, and another John Ashton of Ashton-under-Lyne. Of the daughters by the second marriage, one married Ralph Wilbraham of Wincham and Radnor, ancestor of the Wilbrahams of Woodhey; another married Jeoffrey Holt; and a third Roger Hilton of the Park, in the county of Lancaster.

In the early part of the reign of Edward III., John de Grey held the fourth part of a fee in Adlington, of which Robert Legh subsequently became the tenant. *(Liber Rubeus.)* According to an early heraldic visitation, Robert Legh sealed with two bars argent, and a bendlet gobonny or and gules. His son Robert, during his father's life, differenced this coat with a label of three points. Robert Legh, senior, died at Macclesfield in 1370.

Five years afterwards, *i.e.*, 49 Fdward III., Maud (Norley), his widow, was indicted for forging a settlement of her husband's estates in fraud of the heir, and in favour of her youngest son John, as appears by the following (*penes* Legh of Lyme), and which also forms part of the Cheshire Chamberlain's accounts:

49 Edward III. (1375.)

Indictment against Thomas le Par, and Maud, wife of Robert Legh of Adlington:

"Also they say that when Adam de Kingsley was seized of his lordship, as of fee, of all the lands and tenements with appurtenances which Robert the son of John de Legh had in Broome within Lyme, that is to say, of eight messuages, one hundred and sixty acres of arable land, ten acres of pasture, and four acres of moorland, by the gift and enfeofment of Robert Legh, and which Adam Kingsley re-enfeoffed to Robert for the remainder of his life; and that after his death all the lands, tenements, and appurtenances should go to (q^y Robert) Hugh the son of the said Robert, and his heirs male; and failing him and them, to Peter his brother and his heirs male; and failing them to John the brother of Peter and his heirs male; and failing these to Hamo the son of Robert, and his heirs male; and failing them to Robert the son of Robert, and his heirs male; and failing them to the right heirs of Robert the son of John.

"Whereupon Thomas le Par, and Maud the wife of Robert Legh of Adlington deceased, falsely and maliciously conspired together, insomuch as the said Thomas Par fabricated a false charter in the name of Adam de Kingsley, setting forth that Adam de Kingsley gave and granted all the aforesaid lands and tenements with appurtenances to Robert Legh and Matilda his wife for their joint lives, and that after their deaths the lands, &c., were to go to John their younger son and his heirs male, thus disinheriting Peter and others contrary to the peace of the realm, &c. Also that through this false charter Maud Legh had unjustly retained possession of the above land for six years, after her husband's death. Also that she had extorted two shillings from William de Balywode at Adlington, in 49 Edward III."

The indictment is endorsed with the following names, viz., Robert de Legh, William de Hulme, Richard de Honford, John the son of Robert Chorley, Robert de l'Downes, William le

Clerke de Knottesford, Robert de Newton, Robert de l'Shawe, Richard Vernon of Lostock, Thomas de Pedeley, Richard de l'Broome, Richard le Warde de Som'fort.

The issue of this indictment is uncertain, but it serves to show conclusively that Maud Norley was the second wife of Robert Legh, the first of Adlington, and that Peter Legh and John Legh were her children, the first of whom settled at Lyme, and the second at Ridge. Additional evidence in favour of this much-disputed fact will be found in a "dispute," shortly to be given, which took place between Sir Robert Legh, the third of Adlington, and the above-named Peter and John Legh, his kinsmen.

Robert Legh was succeeded by his son *Robert Legh*, who married Maud, daughter of Sir John de Arderne of Alford, knight, by whom he had one son and two daughters. Through his marriage, lands in Hyde, Cliff, Hattersley, Romiley, and Etchells, were added to the Legh possessions, and continued in this family till the latter part of the 16th century, when Sir Urian Legh gave a part of them away to his eldest daughter as a marriage portion when she became the wife of Sir Henry Legh of Rowcliffe and Eggington, whilst the remainder he sold, except some lands in Stockport. Robert Legh inferentially held the same offices in the manor and forest of Macclesfield as his father did before him. He died 6 Richard II., on the feast of St. Martin, and was succeeded in the Adlington estates by *Sir Robert Legh*, who was more than twenty years of age, as is shown by the *post mortem* inquisition, by which same instrument it further appears that he was born at Borterley Hey, and was baptized in Audley church on the feast of St. Chad the bishop, on the second of March, 35 Edward III., and that he held Adlington manor in chief by knight's service. He married Anabella, daughter and heiress of Thomas de Belgrave of Eccleston, near Chester, and owner also of other estates in Little Belgrave, Mouldisdale, March, and Northwall in Flintshire, and of Kelsall and Tiersworth in Cheshire, and in the city of Chester, all of which possessions remained in the family till the reformation, when, upon

the purchase of the inheritance of the manor and tithes of Prestbury, a moiety of Belgrave manor, and a large part of the other Belgrave possessions were sold to the Grosvenors, who were instrumental in securing the inheritance of Prestbury to the Leghs of Adlington.

In 10 Richard II., 1386, a dispute arose between Sir Robert Legh, and his kinsmen Peter and John Legh, of Lyme and Ridge, which was settled as follows:

"This indenture witnesses that whereas a dispute has arisen between Sir Robert Legh on the one part, and Piers de Legh, and John his brother, on the other part, touching the manner in which they should discharge their several offices in a certain part within the Hundred of Macclesfield and the forest, it was agreed and ordained by the intervention of the following mutual friends, viz.: Sir Ralph de Vernon, Sir William de Legh, Sir John de Ashton, Sir John de Hankeston, Thomas Davenport, William de Hanlege, Robert de l'Downes, Reginald de Downes, Thomas de Ashton, Ralph de Legh, and Thomas de Baggeleghe, that,

"Sir Robert de Legh shall hold his office of senechall of Macclesfield and the forest, according to the tenor of the patent of the earl of Stafford and of the king, without any molestation on the part of either Piers or John. And that Piers de Legh and John his brother, general attorneys of Lady Mohun, shall have full power to have and to use all the things, charges, and provisions, granted to them by the said Lady Mohun, according to the tenor of the patent which they hold of Lady Mohun. Given at Knutsford, in the 10th year of Richard the Second."

In the year previous to this dispute, Richard II. had granted the royal manor, lordship, and hundred of Macclesfield to John de Mohun:

"Rex concessit consanguineæ suæ Johē de Mohun pro vita manēr, domiñ, et hundred de Macclesfield in com. cest. cum diversis libert. et prerogativis."

In 10 Richard II., on the first threatening of a French invasion, Robert de Legh was engaged against the French. He was

twice sheriff of Cheshire in the reign of Richard II. In the 16th year of the same reign he had a commission, jointly with Peter Legh of Lyme, to arrest malefactors and disturbers of the peace in Macclesfield Hundred. For many years he served the double offices of king's stewart and chief forester of the forest of Macclesfield, and was succeeded in them by Sir Perkin a Legh of Lyme. In 21 Richard II., he was entitled Sir Robert Legh, and had a grant of the office of constable of Oswaldtree for life, valued at 10*l.* Later on he took part against Richard II., and joined Sir James Booth, and many other Cheshire gentlemen in furthering the interests of Henry IV., whom he went to meet at Shrewsbury, and whom he accompanied to Chester and Flint. In the first year of the reign of Henry IV., the king confirmed to him a grant of 40*l.* per annum, which had been made in the last reign. In 4 Henry IV., Sir Robert Legh was appointed one of the justices in eyre for the Hundred of Macclesfield. A further annuity of 20*l.* per annum was granted him by Henry IV., in the 6th year of his reign. In this same year, and upon the breaking out of the rebellion of the earl of Northumberland and Archbishop of York, Sir Robert Legh received a summons from Henry, Prince of Wales, as earl of Chester, to join him in person at Warrington with one hundred defensible and honest bowmen in good array for war, and go with him thence to meet the king at Pomfret.

Three years later he died, having survived his father twenty-five years. His *post mortem* inquisition, amongst the treasurer's records at Chester, is as follows: 9 Henry IV. Sir Robert Legh held the manors of Andford (Handforth) Aldreley, Upton, and Adlington, in Cheshire, in chief by military service. Also the manor of Echiels, of Lord Strange, as of his manor of Dunham Massey; also the half of Belgrave, and certain lands in Eccleston of Hugh Venables, in socage, by render of two shillings yearly. (Wood's *Cheshire MS.*)

He quartered the coat of Belgrave, viz., a cross patée sable on a field argent, with the arms of Legh and Corona; and for crest

had a unicorn's head sable, issuing out of a silver coronet. (Herald's visitation, temp. Edward IV.) He left four sons, viz., Robert, William, Reginald, and Piers.

Robert de Legh of Adlington succeeded his father in 1408. He married Maud, or Matilda Belgrave (according to Mr. Wood's *Cheshire MS.*) who survived him sixty-four years, and was re-married to William Honford. In 18 Edward IV., "Matilda late wife of William Handford, and mother of Robert Legh of Adlington, died, leaving Robert Legh her son and heir then aged 68 years."

Robert Legh, her first husband, died in 1410, leaving a son five years of age, who is the person named as Maud's (Handforth's) heir.

This Robert Legh of Adlington married, first, Isabel, daughter of Sir John Savage of Clifton, by whom he had no issue. He married, secondly, Isabel, daughter of Sir William Stanley of Hooton, by a special dispensation from the Pope, because she was of the blood of his first wife, being in the fourth degree related to her. By this latter marriage came two sons and a daughter.

In 1441 Robert Legh made the following exchange of lands, and sealed the deed with a unicorn's head *erased*, not issuing out of a coronet:

"Know all men, &c., that I Robert Legh of Adlyngton have given granted and confirmed to John Marshall, chaplain, and Thomas Barlowe, their heirs and assigns, all my messuages lands and tenements which Thomas Asthull lately occupied in Fulshawe, and all those messuages lands and tenements which Robert Duncalf lately held *(ad firmam)* in Mottram-Andrewe, and all those messuages, &c., which Henry Chorley lately farmed in Chorley, and also all those messuages lands and tenements which Ralph Astbury lately farmed in Warford in the county of Chester, in exchange for certain lands and tenements called Lydgate and Whitehalgh in the county of Derby, to have and to hold them in exchange. As witness, Sir

John Hondford, Christopher Davenport, Reginald Downes, William Clayton, John Shalcros, and others. Given on Monday the next after the feast of St. Martin in winter, in the 20th year of the reign of King Henry the 6th." (Deed *penes* Trafford, copied by Canon Raines.)

In 1448, 26 Henry VI., the manor and tithes of Prestbury, which before had been leased to the Pigots of Butley, who had been benefactors to the abbey of St. Werburg at Chester, were demised to Robert Legh by the abbot, together with the Heybirches and Ewood, with appurtenances ; also the church of Prestbury, with all the tithes, great and small, and all other rights and appurtenances belonging to the church and manor, except the vicar's endowment and the presentation to the church, to hold the same for 39 years, under a yearly rent of 100*l.* A subsequent lease was made in 38 Henry VI., which expired in 1492, 8 Henry VII.

It was thus that the manor and tithes of Prestbury first came to the Leghs of Adlington, and have since been enjoyed by successive generations, the inheritance having been finally purchased when the monastery was dissolved.

In 1447 Robert de Legh obtained a license from the bishop of Lichfield and Coventry to keep a chaplain to perform mass, &c., in any manor house belonging to the family within the diocese, for a term of 30 years, to be without prejudice to the curate of the place. Shortly afterwards a domestic chapel was built at Adlington.

In 9 Edward IV., the king, as earl of Chester, granted to Robert de Legh liberty to enclose and make a park at Whitley Hey and Adlington Wood, and Whitley Hey Green, so that he might keep and hold the same to himself and heirs notwithstanding that it was within the bounds of the royal forest of Macclesfield. He also obtained a grant of free warren in all his demesnes and woods, with court leet privileges, views of franc pledge, &c., within Adlington manor, the vills and hamlets of Stockport, Bollington, Hyde, and Rainow.

Robert Legh died in 1478, and was succeeded by his son, Robert de Legh, who married Ellen, daughter of Robert Booth of Dunham Massey, by whom he had issue. He only survived his father seven years, and dying in 1486 was succeeded by his son, Thomas Legh, who was 35 years old at the time of his father's death. He married Catherine, daughter of Sir John Savage of Clifton, and sister of John Savage, the Archbishop of York, who founded the chantry chapel at Macclesfield. Their mother was Catherine, sister of Thomas first lord Derby.

In 15 Henry VII a *quo warranto* was brought against Thomas de Legh to show by what authority he claimed to have a park at Whitley Hey, and to hold courts leet. These liberties appear to have been very generally challenged when Prince Arthur, as eldest son of Henry VII., was earl of Chester. The burgesses of Nantwich were summoned to show cause why they claimed like privileges, and the punishment of butchers and fishmongers for selling tainted meat and fish; and John Warren was also summoned to show cause why he claimed view of franc pledge within his manor of Stockport, which otherwise belonged to the sword and dignity of the Prince. Thomas Legh pleaded the grant that was made to his grandfather by Edward IV., and upon challenge of particulars replied that he claimed liberty to enclose the lands already specified, and free warren in all his Cheshire possessions, and views of franc pledge, with all liberties and commodities which belonged to or in any way appertained to the new view of franc pledge. He claimed the assize of bread and ale; the punishing of scolds by the thew, or putting them into the kokynstole (ducking stool); and to punish bakers and brewers, after the third offence, by amercement; and after the fourth offence to punish bakers by the judgment of the pillory, and brewers by the judgment of the tumbrell; and to have all amercements and fines for all trespasses and offences, and effusions of blood, and affrayers presented within the leet, to be assessed by the jury. To sum up, Thomas de Legh declared that he made no claim other than had been granted to his

grandfather in the time of Edward IV., as earl of Chester. *(Vide Adlington MS.)*

No further proceedings were taken at Chester, and the courts leet continued to be held twice a year. The park was, however, disparked about the year 1710, as it was found to lay too far away from the hall; and another large tract of land, near to the hall (which had formerly been imparked), was again converted to the same use.

The extent of the possessions of the Leghs of Adlington, at this time, may be judged of by the following grant to Sir Thomas Gerard, Sir William Stanley, Sir William Pierpoint, Peter Dutton, William Grosvenor, and many other gentlemen, of the manor of Adlington, and all other of Mr. T. Legh's manors, messuages, mills, salt works, lands, &c., &c., in Adlington, Prestbury, Stockport, Mottram-Andrew, Macclesfield, Bollington, Kettleshulme, Rainow, Butley, Foxwist, Swyndells, Romiley, Hyde, Millington, Legh, Northwich, Budworth, Kelsal, Tiersworth, Belgrave, and Marsh, and Northwall in Flint, to hold of them and their heirs, to perform his will.

One of the sons of Robert Legh, by name Reginald, was of Mottram-St.-Andrew, and was the principal contributor towards the building of Prestbury church tower, as his monumental inscription testifies. He has, as I think, been confounded with another Reginald Legh of Annesley, by Dr. Ormerod and by Canon Raines. In the time of Edward IV. there were two Reginald Leghs, cotemporaries, one of Annesley in Nottinghamshire, and the other of Mottram-St.-Andrew within the parish of Prestbury in Cheshire. In corroberation of this statement I quote the following transcript of a deed copied into the *Adlington MS.*:

"Reginold Lege of Annesley Esquier and Ales his wief gives and grantes all his landes in Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire unto the Lord Stanley, Henry Lord Greye, Reynold Leige of Mottram-Andrew Esquier and Richard Legh son of the said Reynold Legh of Annesley. By deed dated at Annesley afore-

said in the feaste of the Annunciation of the blessed Marie the Virgin anno regni Edwardi Quarti post conquestum Angliæ octo decimo."

I think that Reginald Legh of Annesley sprung from the Leghs of Lyme. Thorsby, in his *History of Nottinghamshire*, says that Reginald Legh was second husband of Alice, the daughter and heiress of Annesley, and that, in a north window in Annesley church there were in his time, amongst others, these arms, viz., gules a cross engrailed argent, impaling Annesley. The first coat is unquestionably that of Legh of Lyme, and if Reginald, who married the heiress of Annesley, had sprung from the Leghs of Adlington, he would not have taken the coat-armour of Lyme.

Reginald, the younger brother of Robert Legh of Adlington, in 12 Edward IV., gave all his lands in Mottram-Andrew, Butley, and Chorley, to his brother James de Legh. In the same year James de Legh gave them to John de Hulme, John de Shallcross, and William le Fletcher Chaplain, and their heirs. These lands eventually came back to the family in the first year of Henry VII., by grant from Robert Hulme, as appears by family deeds. Reginald Legh of Mottram-Andrew died in the 23rd year of Edward IV., leaving issue Maude, an only daughter, who married Nicholas de Berd of Berd, in Staffordshire.

Thomas de Legh died in 1519, and was succeeded by his son, George de Legh, who married Joan, a daughter of Peter Larke, a gentleman of Huntingdonshire. She afterwards married a brother of George Paulet, marquis of Winchester. From an entry made in the *Adlington MS.*, it appears that Joan Larke was one of three children of Peter Larke. "Peter Larke had issue Thomas Larke, Jane, and Elizabeth Larke. Both of them dyed in Ireland (*i.e.* Peter and his wife). Jane Larke married George Leyghe of Adlington, and by him had issue one sonne and three daughters, that is to saye, Thomas Leyghe father unto Thomas now living, with Isabell, Margarett and Marye."

I have been the more particular in quoting this record because

it has been said in Fiddes' *Life of Cardinal Wosley* that Jane Larke was the cardinal's natural daughter. This story has been repeated in later works, but it would seem to have no stronger foundation than the malice with which Wolsey was persecuted towards the period of his fall.

In the first place Jane was one of a family of three children, she being the second child born to Peter Larke. In the next place the marriages she contracted go far to disprove any such allegation. Furthermore, Wolsey's enemies did not dare to press the inquiry to a legitimate issue. Then again, the lease of the manor and tithes of Prestbury had been so long in the Legh family that a renewal of both to them would appear quite a matter of course. It is probable that Sir John Stanley, who was a natural son of the bishop of Ely, who was himself an ecclesiastic and warden of Manchester, and who had married Margaret the heiress of the Handforths of Handforth, and who was hence a near neighbour of the Leghs of Adlington, endeavoured to obtain this particular lease from the abbot and convent of St. Werburg. It seems certain that a dispute arose between these two neighbouring families respecting the renewal of the Prestbury lease, and that Sir John Stanley's claim was espoused by the bishop of Ely, his father, and favoured by the conventual authorities, who enabled him to obtain it for a brief period. It is also certain that Wolsey was a friend of the Larkes, and that the cardinal's influence was obtained by the Leghs to wring from Sir John Stanley the privilege he had secured.

In the thirty-eighth article of impeachment it was stated that Wolsey "by his power and might committed Sir John Stanley to the Fleet until he compelled him to relinquish a convent seal he had taken of the abbot and convent of Chester, unto one Legh of Adlington." It required a twelve month's incarceration before Sir John Stanley was induced to give up the lease. The measure was a high-handed one on both sides, and the battle seems in reality to have been fought between the powerful bishop of Ely on the one hand, and the yet more powerful cardinal on the

other. Favouritism was undoubtedly shown on either side; and yet the cardinal acted the more worthy part in the strife, seeing that he battled for the family which had enjoyed the privilege for years before he (the cardinal) was born.

A further proof of the friendship borne by cardinal Wolsey to the family of Larke is made manifest from the fact that, *circa* 1521, Jane's brother, Thomas Larke, was instituted by him to the rich living of Winwick, in Lancashire, and was entrusted with the education of the future earl of Derby. For a more ample account of Sir John Stanley, and of his father, reference may be made to Mr. Beamont's *Notes on the Lancashire Stanley's, with particular reference to Sir John Stanley of Honford*, published in 1869.

The mutilated arms of Sir John Stanley, impaling Handforth, with the equally mutilated motto "vanitas vanitatum," are yet to be seen in the Brereton chantry of Cheadle church, in Cheshire.

George Legh died in 1529, and was succeeded by his son, Thomas Legh, who married Mary, daughter of Richard Grosvenor of Eaton, Esquire, and by her had an only child, Thomas, who was yet in his infancy when his father died in 3 Edward VI.

Thomas Legh, or, as he was more frequently styled, Dr. Legh, took an active part in the religious movements that were instituted by Henry VIII. He seems to have convinced himself very early of the thorough rottenness of the monastic system in England, and to have set to work for its amendment, or suppression, with a zeal, ability, and thoroughness unsurpassed by any of his brother commissioners. His letters, which have been preserved amongst the Hardwicke state papers, and which have been recently printed by Mr. Thomas Wright in one of the Camden society's publications, show conclusively that the domestic habits and practices of the more affluent lay families reflected but too truly the religious teachings and example of their spiritual advisers. Few counties were left unvisited by him. Now he writes from his native county of Cheshire; then he is found in Wiltshire, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertford-

shire, Staffordshire, and Yorkshire. To Sir Thomas Cromwell he reports with an unsparing pen all that he finds lacking in learning, religion, probity, and morality. Fountain's abbey, in Yorkshire, is held up as a hotbed of contumacy and profligacy. He calls the abbot a very fool, a miserable idiot, a keeper of six whores, a man so devoid of common honesty as to make a systematic practice of selling the convent plate and jewels privately, and for his own particular gain. Sometimes Dr. Legh prosecuted his labours single-handed; at others he travelled in the company of Dr. Laton, a fellow commissioner and a priest; and at others his name is associated with those of three or more commissioners.

It was a common practice with Dr. Legh to confine the monks within the precincts of their several houses. In this respect he seems to have been a more rigid disciplinarian than others who were engaged in the same commission. Nevertheless he acted with so much honesty and impartiality that Sir Thomas Audley, who was by no means his especial admirer, was constrained to say, whilst writing to Cromwell, that "he (Dr. Legh) suith (beareth) himself right indifferently in the execution of his charge."

It is a noteworthy and a highly honourable circumstance, that the allied houses of Adlington and Lyme sent forth, at this critical juncture, two such worthy scions of a common stock in the persons of Thomas Legh of Adlington and Sir Peter Legh of Lyme. In the one was found a man erudite, courageous, active, indefatigable, of strong convictions, and, in practice, a very "malleus monachorum," who left no stone unturned whereby he hoped to root out and utterly destroy what he conscientiously believed to be a corrupt and a corrupting system of life and teaching. That he was mated to a wife in every respect worthy of him and of the house of Grosvenor from which she sprang, the house of Egerton will willingly testify.

Sir Peter Legh of Lyme was a doughty warrior who earned laurels at Leith, who was provost marshal of Cheshire and Lan-

cashire, who twice served as sheriff in each county, who was deputy stewart of Macclesfield Hundred, in which capacity he represented the earl of Derby on the trial of the Martyr Marsh, and who, when too old to bear arms any longer, sent the sinews of war in the shape of a money contribution towards driving away from England the Spaniards, when they swooped down on Queen Elizabeth in particular, and upon the champions of the reformation in general.

One of Thomas Legh's letters to Thomas Cromwell, lord privy seal, dated 22nd August 1536, and written from Vale Royal monastery, is too interesting and too characteristic to be omitted:

"In my most humble manner I commend me unto your good lordship evermore thanking you for your munificency and great goodness at all times showed unto me. Advertising your lordship that whereas I have hitherto according to your commandment visited the Archdeaconries of Coventry, Stafford, Derby, and part of Cheshire, for that I can perceive, accordingly as I have before written unto you, there lacketh nothing but good and godly instruction of the rude and poor people, and reformation of the heads in these parts. For, certain of the knights and gentlemen, and most commonly all, liveth so incontinently, having their concubines openly in their houses, with five or six of their children, and putting from them their wives, that all the country therewith be not a little offended and taketh evil example of them. Wherefore I have hitherto given and sent commandment to them (by reason I could not speak with them all by reason they were at the assizes) to put from them immediately such concubines as they have hitherto notoriously and manifestly occupied and kept, and to take again their wives, or else appear before your Lordship to show a cause why they should not be compelled; and if your Lordship will command any other thing to be done in the premises I shall be ready to accomplish the same. And seeing my Lord of Norfolk is come to the Court, I shall most humbly desire you to have me in remembrance. And thus God preserve you, and have you in his most

firm tuition, with much increase of honour according to the contentation of your Lordship's most noble good heart's desire.

"From the monastery of Vale Royal, the 22d of August. Your Lordship's humble at commandment, Thomas Leigh."

By a reference to the survey of the monastery of St. Werburg after the dissolution, it appears that the manors of Huntyngdon and Cheveley, with appurtenances, were let to Dr. Thomas Lee by an indenture bearing date October 18, in the 30th year of Henry VIII., for a term of 99 years.

Thomas Legh sold lands in Bishire, in the county of Flint, and in the lordship of Molesdale, to his brother-in-law Richard Grosvenor, who afterwards conveyed them, in trust, to Sir Urian Brereton and John Wynne, by will dated 22 Elizabeth. (Piccope's *Cheshire Wills.*) He died in the 3rd year of the reign of Edward VI. His widow afterwards married Sir Richard Egerton knight, whose natural son Thomas she carefully educated, and always treated with much care and kindness. As is well known, he studied law, was raised to the rank of lord keeper of the seal, and became the founder of the family of Egerton of Ellesmere, and Dukes of Bridgewater. By Sir Richard Egerton she had a son named Ralph, and other children. She died at Astbury, in Cheshire, in the church of which place her remains lie buried beneath an altar tomb, which bears her recumbent effigy, habited in the costume of the period, and coloured. The lettering is now effaced, but three shields of arms remain which represent first, Legh of Adlington impaling Brereton of Handforth; second, Egerton impaling Holford, and Dutton, placed palewise on the sinister half of the shield, and representing Ralph Egerton and his two wives; and third, Brereton of Tatton, impaling on the sinister half Legh of Lyme and Egerton, and representing the armorial device of Dorothy, daughter of Sir Richard Egerton, and her two husbands. (See illustration, p. 80.)

During the joint lives of Sir Richard Egerton and Mary his wife (late wife of Thomas Legh deceased) a survey was made of the lands, tenements, rents, services and hereditaments in Stock-

port, which they held in right of Mary Egerton's jointure, and which, after her death, were declared to be part and parcel of the inheritance of Thomas Legh of Adlington, son and heir of his father deceased. The survey was made on the 2nd, 8th, 9th, and 10th days of October, in 19° Elizabeth, 1577. It is of interest as showing not only what these possessions consisted in, but also as giving a good idea of what Stockport was at this particular time. Two mansion houses of the Leghs of Adlington are enumerated. One was an old ruinous house of four bays, gone to decay. The other mansion house had also four bays, with outbuildings, standing by the side of Turncroft lane. Then there was a cottage in a field called the Underbank, and other houses in a row, standing in Milnegate street, with gardens at their backs. Other lands called Barnes Carr were held by the lords of Adlington in free socage, and by payment of a yearly rent of two shillings and fourpence at the feast of St. Martin the bishop, in winter. In all there were about forty separate holdings varying from four to six acres, and so on, to a few roods each. The extent of the entire holdings, exclusive of manor-houses, amounted to about fifty acres, with tenements attached.

Dorothy Legh lies buried in Eccles church, Lancashire. She married, first, Richard Brereton of Tatton and Worsley, and, second, Sir Peter Legh of Lyme. By her will, dated 1639, she desired to be buried in the tomb at Eccles which she had made for her former husband and herself to lie in. To her godson, Mr. Thomas Legh of Adlington, she bequeathed three "spurrer-alls" to make him a ring.

Thomas Legh, who succeeded, married Sibil, daughter of Urian Brereton of Handforth. He had a long minority, during a part of which the manor and tithes of Prestbury were purchased in the names of Sir Richard and Sir John Grosvenor, in trust. After the dissolution of the monastery, Henry VIII. granted to the dean and chapter of Chester cathedral (founded for the most part out of the monastic revenues) the manor and church of Prestbury, which they in turn (7 Edward VI.) granted to Sir

Richard Cotton of Werblington for ever. Sir Richard Cotton re-granted them to the brothers of Mary Legh, viz., to Sir Richard and to Sir John Grosvenor, they having purchased a reversionary lease from Urian Brereton and one Broughton before the inheritance was conveyed to them by Sir Richard Cotton. But the grant from the dean and chapter of Chester to Sir Richard Cotton having been complained of as informal and void, an information was exhibited in the exchequer at Westminster in 19° Elizabeth, against the feoffees of Sir Richard Cotton for intruding into the queen's lands. The matter was referred to several lords and others of the privy council, who ordered the rents to be reserved and that the chapter should take a grant of them from the crown. In 21° Elizabeth the feoffees surrendered the lands to the queen, and, on the 19th of December following, the queen re-granted the manor, advowson, and tithes of Prestbury (together with other estates that had belonged to the monastery of St. Werburg) to George Calveley, George Cotton, Hugh Cholmondely, Thomas Legh, Henry Mainwaring, John Nuttall, and Richard Hurleston, and their heirs.

On the 1st of October in 28° Elizabeth, all the other grantees except Calveley (who was dead) re-leased the manor, advowson, and tithes of Prestbury to Thomas Legh and his heirs, subject to a rent of 95*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, payable to the dean and chapter of Chester. (Records *penes* Legh.)

Thomas Legh, the next in succession, married Sibill, daughter of Sir Urian Brereton and Margery Hondford, who was the daughter and heiress of William Honford of Hondford, or Handforth. He rebuilt the hall of Adlington in 23 Elizabeth, as the raised letter inscription over the doorway shows.

He was possessed of salt works at Northwich, as appears by entries made in the *Harleian MS.* and elsewhere, which were collected and arranged by the late Mr. Hadfield of Alsager. In "1565 (7 Elizabeth) Thomas Legh of Adlington held one wich house, with four leads (or evaporating pans); and other works, amounting in all to twelve leads, some of which Thomas Stanley

of Alderley took from him." For this a yearly rent of two shillings was paid to the lord of the manor. These and other works were held by Sir Urian Legh, after his father's death.

Thomas Legh was sheriff of Cheshire in 30° Elizabeth. By a clause in the will of dame Mary Egerton, the mother of Thomas Legh, it appears that he, and Sibyl his wife, conveyed the manor of Prestbury, and all messuages, tithes, &c., to the use of dame Mary, for a period of sixty years, if she should live so long, and afterwards to the use of Thomas Legh and his heirs, with power, for twenty-one years after her death, to demise the tithes, &c., to whom she would. She also gave to her son, Rauffe Egerton (then lord keeper) the reversion of a messuage in Prestbury, at that time held by Lawrence Hyde, who is styled his servant. (See Piccope's *Cheshire Wills.*)

Thomas Legh having survived his father fifty years, died 45° Elizabeth, 1602, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Urian Legh, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir Edmund Trafford of Trafford, knight, in 1592. In 1596 he joined the earl of Essex in the expedition fitted out by Elizabeth against the Spaniards, and, having taken a leading part in the siege of Cadiz, received the honour of knighthood on the field, at the hands of the earl of Essex. His portrait is preserved at Adlington, and is that of a man with good and regular features, and highly-arched eyebrows, apparently about forty-five years of age. Around his neck he wears a long and heavy chain composed of six rows of gold links, after the manner of a string of pearls. On one side of the picture is his coat of arms of six quarters, viz.: Venables, Legh of Adlington, Trafford of Trafford (argent, a griffon gules), Belgrave, and two others. On the other the following inscription: "Sir Urian Legh of Adlington in the county of Cheshire Knight who went with Robert Devereux Earl of Essex to the seige of Cadiz and was by him knighted in the field for his great services in taking that Town in 1596. He married Margaret daughter of Sir Edmund Trafford of Trafford in the county of Lancaster Knight by whom he had four sons and three daughters."

Sir Urian Legh has always been accounted by the Leghs of Adlington to be the hero of the beautiful ballad of "The Spanish lady's love," although Dr. Percy, in his introductory remarks to this ballad in the *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*, assigns it to either a member of the Popham family, or to Sir Richard Levison of Trentham, in Staffordshire. The Leghs, on the other hand, not only adduce as evidence of identity the family tradition, but until recently could produce the chain, which used formerly to be preserved in a casket as an heirloom at Adlington, and which was removed to Shaw Hill, Lancashire, shortly after the Adlington estate descended by inheritance to Richard Crosse of Shaw Hill, in Lancashire. The statement made by Dr. Ormerod to the effect that the original portrait of Sir Urian Legh is to be found at Bramhall is erroneus. The portrait in question is of later date, and represents Colonel Thomas Legh, son of Sir Urian, who was so distinguished a partisan of the royal cause during the Civil war. Its preservation at Bramhall is accounted for by the marriage of Anne Legh, daughter of Col. Thomas Legh, with Peter Davenport of Bramhall.

Sir Urian Legh sold the moiety of the manor of Hyde, and all his lands in Hyde, and gave three estates in Hattersley and Cliffe, and all his estates in Stockport except Croft and the several burgages and tenements thereto adjoinging, to Sir Henry Legh of Rowcliffe, in marriage with his eldest daughter.

Lum, in Hyde, now a farm house, was formerly a manorial residence of the Leghs of Adlington. In 1609 Sir Urian Legh purchased Foxwist, in Butley, from William Duncalf, whose ancestors had been settled there for generations, and were persons of good account. Foxwist came to the Duncalfs through the marriage of the daughter and heiress of William Foxwist with one of the Duncalfs. In the *Adlington MS.* it is stated that Robert Foxwist was heir to a local family named Hoghlegh of Hoghlegh, formerly enjoying one of the subordinate foresterships of Macclesfield. Nothing of Foxwist now remains except a small part of a very strong foundation, and the outlines of a

double moat within which the house was intrenched. The inner moat was drained off about the year 1846. The names of Hugh de Foxwist, and of Urian de Foxwist, are attached to 13th century deeds relating to Wilmslow, *penes* Trafford. The same deeds show that Robert de l'Downes was of Foxwist, for one year. (Canon Raines's extracts.)

Sir Urian Legh served the office of sheriff of Cheshire in 11° James I. He died in 1627, and was succeeded by his son, Thomas Legh, who married Ann, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of John Gobard, or Gobarte, Esquire, of Boresworth in Leicestershire, and sometime of Coventry.[11] He was of French extraction, and his ancestors were persons of great command and possessions in France. John Gobarte had several estates in Leicestershire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, London, and Ireland. Peter Gobarte, who first settled in England, was in the service of Henry VIII. They bore for arms or, a bend between six martlets, three and three, gules. Besides the fortune that his daughter received in marriage with Thomas Legh, he presented them with Clumber, in Nottinghamshire, and, by his will dated 1623, he gave the lands he held in the parish of Prestbury to his daughter for her life, with remainder to her eldest son Thomas for ever. He further gave estates in South Killworth, Leicestershire, to his grandchildren, Charles, John, and Peter Legh, and money legacies to others. Clumber formed part of the royal manor of Mansfield, and forest of Sherwood. It appears to have been sequestrated from the Leghs during the Civil war, and never restored. It was a rather wild piece of woodland and heath at this time, and remained so till John Holles, who married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Henry Cavendish, the last duke of Newcastle of that name, received a royal license from Queen Anne, in 1707, to empark his own

[11] Boresworth, now called Bosworth or Husband Bosworth, to distinguish it from the Bosworth of historic notoriety, is situate in the Hundred of Gartrey, on the Northamptonshire border of the county.

3,000 acres of "land of inheritance" at Clumber, for the Queen's use first and afterwards for his own.

Thomas Legh served the office of sheriff of his county twice during the reign of Charles I. Upon the breaking out of the Civil wars he engaged very strenuously on the king's part, and had a colonel's commission. All the male members of his family were actively employed in the same cause. His eldest son Thomas was a lieutenant-colonel, whilst the younger sons, and uncle Urian, were all included in the royalists' ranks. His zeal made him so obnoxious to the Parliament party that, when the treaty of Uxbridge was set on foot in in 1644, it was insisted (amongst other things delivered to his majesty by the commissioners) that Colonel Legh, with about forty-seven more (of which number Lord Cholmondely and Sir Thomas Aston formed part) should be removed from the king's council and restrained from coming within the verge of the court, and debarred from bearing any office or employment concerning the state; and that, if they offended therein, they were to be considered guilty of high treason, and incapable of the king's pardon, and their estates disposed of as the Parliament should think fit. But, before this time, the Parliament had seized all Colonel Legh's estates, Sir William Brereton, his near relative, having entered thereon, by an order of both houses dated March 18, 1643, for satisfaction of damages he alleged to have suffered by pretending that Mr. Legh had seized his lands.

Adlington hall, which was garrisoned for the king's party, was afterwards taken by storm and plundered by the Parliament forces. Soon after it was retaken and garrisoned for the king a second time. Colonel Legh, leaving his house in charge of his son, now went to the garrison at Chester, where he died towards Christmas, 1644. To continue the narrative after Colonel Legh's death, Adlington hall was taken a second time by the Parliament forces, and retained by them as a garrison for a lengthened period. At the time of his death Colonel Legh had ten children, viz., four sons, and six daughters. His portrait is preserved at

Adlington. He is dressed in the costume of the time of Charles I., and holds in his hand a baton of command. In one corner of the canvas the following is written : "Ano. xpi. 1632, æt. suæ 39." His widow survived him, and resided at the Milne house, which was formerly the Dower house. In 1645 she preferred a petition to the committee for compounding with delinquents, at Goldsmiths' hall, setting forth that her late husband was entitled to a great real and personal estate, but that the greater part thereof had been seized for his delinquency and converted to the use of the Parliament ; that there was some part of his personalty unconverted to the public use ; that he died indebted more than the remains of his personalty would pay ; that he had made her sole executrix of his will ; that she had long before her husband's death misliked the course of the enemy in the parts where she resided, and had departed thence into the Parliament's quarters, where she had ever since remained and conformed herself to all the orders of Parliament. She therefore prayed that she might be admitted to compound for the remainder of her husband's personal estate, according to the the value of the tenth part thereof.

Upon this allegation, which appears to have been made *bonâ fide*, and through the interest of Sir Alexander Rigby, her brother-in-law, who was a member of the House of Commons and in the Parliament interest, she compounded for rather more than 600*l.*

She afterwards married Alexander Rigby, a Parliamentarian colonel, and after his death she was united in marriage, for the third time, to Sir John Booth of Woodford, a descendant of the Booths of Dunham Massey. Her portrait is preserved at Adlington, painted by Walker Robert in 1650.

In the printed catalogue of royalist Cheshire gentlemen and others who compounded for their estates (*vide* Ormerod's *Hist. Cheshire*, vol. i. pp. 38–9) the following names occur as connected with the Adlington possessions :

	£	s.	d.
Ann, widow of Thomas Legh	603	7	8
Thomas Legh, her son	1040	0	0
John Legh (who was killed)	60	0	0
George Watts of Adlington	440	0	0
Dorothy Shirt (Sherd) do.	30	0	0
Thomas Pickford do.	16	15	0
Thomas Pigott of Butley (Bonishall)	30	0	0
Total.....	£2220	2	8

Thomas Legh succeeded, and married Mary, daughter of Thomas Bolles of Osbarton, Nottinghamshire, by dame Mary Bolles, a baronetess, and one of the daughters of William Wilham of Leadstone hall, Yorkshire. During his father's life-time he had distinguished himself as a royalist soldier, and in 1643, having had the misfortune to be taken prisoner by the Parliament forces at Stafford, he was placed in confinement at Coventry, where he remained two years, until exchanged for his kinsman Colonel Rigby in June, 1645.

In April, 1644, the committee for sequestrations, on the petition of Thomas Legh's wife, ordered that she should have the Miln house with the grounds belonging to it, also the demesne of Foxwist, and the mill at Prestbury, for the maintenance of herself and children.[12] But, it afterwards appearing that these allotments were in jointure to her husband's mother, she petitioned Sir William Brereton and the council of war at Nantwich, and the committees for sequestration, that they would please to assign the hall of Adlington for her to live in, and a competent part of the residue of the estate which should belong to her husband, for the maintenance of herself and children; also that some consideration therein should be had for the relief of her

[12] The manorial mill stood behind the village of Prestbury, near to where a factory has been built for silk spinning.

husband. This petition was subscribed by Sir William Brereton, who desired the sequestrators to consider and report what was warrantable and fit to be done; but, as to Adlington hall, as it had been garrisoned twice against the Parliament, he could not judge it fit to be ventured a third time.

The committee afterwards, in 1645, upon consideration of the articles of marriage between Thomas Legh and the Lady Mary Bolles, allotted her a small part of the lands which should have descended to her husband.

In 1646, in the proposition of both houses sent to the king at Newcastle, Thomas Legh, with about fifty more of his party, was excepted; and, amongst other things, it was insisted that one full third part of the extended value of their estates should be employed in payment of the public debts and damages of the nation.

In June of this same year Mrs. Legh again petitioned the sequestrators on behalf of her husband, begging that he might be admitted to compound for his estates, and alleging that, since his exchange, he had forbore to repair to the enemy's quarters; and setting forth the miseries she and her children endured, being destitute of livelihood unless relieved.

Mr. Legh likewise petitioned the committee at Goldsmiths' hall for liberty to compound for his estates, and delinquency, upon which petition a charge of delinquency was exhibited against him, viz.:

1. That he led a company of musquetiers into Adlington hall when it was first garrisoned against the Parliament, and brought some who were well affected to the Parliament prisoners into the garrison and kept them there till they compounded with him.

2. That he bore arms in that garrison; was governor of it; and gave directions to the inferior commanders therein.

3. That he refused to deliver up the said house to Colonel Duckenfield for the use of the Parliament.

4. That he went from that garrison to Shrewsbury, thence to Chester, and thence to other garrisons of the enemy, and that

he associated himself and held intercourse of intelligence against the Parliament with them.

He was admitted to compound for his estates, and, having paid and secured 2,260*l.* to the treasurers for the money to be raised upon composition with the delinquents, he obtained a discharge in July, 1646. Afterwards, in 1647, he sued out a pardon under the great seal for himself and three brothers, who also had to compound. Notwithstanding all this, the commissioners, in November, 1648, ordered him to settle the tithes of Bosley, valued at 56*l.* a year, upon the minister of Bosley and his successors for ever, for which he was to be allowed 560*l.* out of the remainder of his fine. In the same year he was assessed to the twentieh part of his estate by the committee of Lords and Commons for advance of money, and so paid 220*l.* more in pursuance of that order. He was afterwards called upon to give in a particular of his real and personal estate, and in February, 1655, he gave in such account to Major-General Worsley and the commissioners for securing the peace of the county, at Middlewich.

In November, 1656, his estate being again decimated, and he secured, he preferred a petition to Cromwell alleging that he had behaved peaceably under the present government, and praying that he might no longer be looked upon as an enemy, but might partake of the Protector's grace and favour for taking off the tax. The petition was referred to the major-general and commissioners for securing the peace of the county, who, in January following, certified that since his composition Thomas Legh had behaved peaceably and respectably to the Parliament party, soldiers, and friends, and had been concerned in no plots against the Protector or Parliament, to their knowledge, and had constantly paid all taxes for the use of the Commonwealth, and sent forth such forces, both horse and foot, for the service of the late Parliament as required, and did offer his personal assistance for them at the battle of Worcester, and that they conceived him to be a person capable of favour. After this, no

further molestation was offered, and Mr. Legh was suffered to live quietly till the restoration. (Records *penes* Legh.) No family in the county suffered more than this one during the civil war, and to none was less recompense made.

In 1662, *i.e.*, in the third year following the restoration, Mr. Legh was made a colonel of militia, and also served the office of sheriff for the county. A noble picture of Colonel Legh and his wife, on one broad sheet of canvas, is preserved in the dining room of Adlington. Both are drawn at full length. He is a tall and powerful man with dark hair and complexion, and habited in a doublet with slashed sleeves; she in a turned down tippet, and point lace cuffs to a jacket over a flounced dress. Both dresses are very characteristic of the latter end of the Commonwealth period. In 1687 he died, and was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas Legh, who married in 1666 Johanna, one of the daughters of Sir John Maynard, knight, sergeant-at-law, a commissioner of the great seal, and one of the greatest lawyers of his day. Soon after the revolution which seated William III. on the English throne, the king in audience observed to him (he being then more than 80 years of age) that he had outlived most of his cotemporaries of the law, whereupon Sir John replied that, until the happy event of the king's advent, he was afraid he should have outlived the law itself.

In 1669 Thomas Legh purchased the hall, demesne, and mills of Handforth from Sir Thomas Brereton of Handforth, baronet. In 1681 he further purchased the demesne and estate of Newton from John Bennison. Like his father and grandfather, Mr. Thomas Legh fell into trouble through the cabals of his day, for his name is included in the list of those who were supposed to favour Monmouth's rebellion in 1683, and against whom it was deemed expedient to demand security of the peace. (Ormerod.) He was a colonel of militia, and appears to have outlived any political suspicion, for he was made sheriff of the county in 1688.

He died shortly afterwards, and was succeeded by his son

John Legh, who married the right honourable lady Isabella, daughter of Robert Robartes, Lord Bodmyn (whose widow, Sarah Bodville, was created countess of Radnor by Charles II., and was granddaughter of the first earl of Radnor, who was president of the council and lord-lieutenant of Ireland in the reign of Charles II.), and had issue one son and two daughters. In 1693 John Legh purchased an estate in Adlington called "Sherdfold," from William Sherd; and another at Hope Green, from Edward Downes, in the year 1696. In 1699 he further purchased "Day's tenement," in Prestbury. He was a colonel of militia, and sheriff of the county in 1705.

The sale of Sherd fold must have proved a sad blow to the family of Sherd, which had been settled as free tenants on Adlington for generations. William Sherd, the last of Sherd and Disley, had fought side by side with John Legh's father during the civil wars. His widow Dorothy, as already shown, had to compound for her husband's delinquency; and this, added to the exhausting effects of the strife, had doubtless proved too much for the family to bear. In Dr. Ormerod's *Cheshire* four generations are recorded, as is also the additional fact that the Sherds were subordinate foresters of Macclesfield. The names of Richard and John de Scherd are appended to 13th century deeds.

John Legh died in 1739, and was succeeded by his son *Charles Legh*, who married, in 1733, Hester, daughter and finally co-heiress of Robert Lee of Wincham, by whom he had one son, Thomas, who died in his father's lifetime, and two daughters, one of whom, Lucy Frances, was married to Peter Davenport.

Charles Legh was a colonel of militia, and served the office of sheriff for Cheshire in 1747. He built the brick front of Adlington hall, the left wing and chapel, and in many other respects added to and adorned the mansion, park, and grounds. He also rebuilt the north aisle of Prestbury church. He was a friend of Handel, who composed the "Musical Blacksmith" whilst on a visit to

Adlington. Mr. Legh had asked for an original composition whilst the two were out walking. The request was made when they were near to Hollingworth smithy, and whilst they walked home through the park Handel whistled the tune and afterwards wrote it down. The whole originated in the natural music made by the smiths whilst plying their trade. Handel also left behind the music of a hunting song, the words of which were composed by Mr. Legh, and which is yet preserved in the family.

Charles Legh always claimed to bear the arms of Venables, without any mark of decadence, on the ground that all other male descendants of Gilbert de Venables, first baron of Kinderton, were dead, though it is needless to say that this claim has been disallowed. His son Thomas married Mary, daughter of Francis Reynolds of Strangeways, Manchester, by Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Matthew, lord Ducie. By her he had several children, none of whom arrived at maturity, and all of whom predeceased their father, who himself died when forty years old. His full length portrait as a minor, habited in a drab suit, hangs in the drawing room at Adlington. His father's has been removed to Shaw Hill, as also another of himself. There being now no direct surviving issue, Hester Legh willed Wincham to the family of Townsend. Charles Legh settled Adlington, with its dependencies, on his niece Elizabeth, and her *heirs male.* She was the daughter of Sir Peter and Lucy Frances (Legh) Davenport, and was married to John Rowlls of Kingston, in Surrey, receiver-general of that county, and who assumed the name of Legh upon the death of Charles Legh, which happened in 1781. Her portrait, by Angelica Kaufman, is at Adlington.

John Rowlls Legh and Elizabeth his wife had three sons and a daughter, Elizabeth Hester. Two of the sons died unmarried. The third son married Harriet, daughter of Sir Piers Warburton of Arley, baronet, and by her had a son, Charles, who died in 1797 when fifteen years old. His father died in the lifetime of his mother, Elizabeth Rowlls Legh. The daughter, Elizabeth Hester Rowlls Legh, married, in 1800, Thomas Delves Broughton of

Ham Common, and by him had a numerous family, to whom Butley hall and some lands adjacent were alienated.

The male descent having once more failed in the person of John Rowlls Legh, the manor and dependencies of Adlington passed to Richard Crosse of Shaw Hill, near Preston, Lancashire, as next of kin. He was great grandson of Robert, second brother of John Legh, the 15th in direct descent, of Adlington, who married the lady Isabella Robartes.

Robert Legh was settled at Chorley, in Lancashire, and married Margaret, daughter of Sir Richard Standish of Duxbury, by whom he had, *inter alia*, Ann, married to Richard Crosse of Crosse hall, Lancashire. By this last marriage came two sons, Thomas and Legh Crosse. Thomas was married to Mrs. Pedder, and was the father of Richard Crosse, on whom the Adlington possessions devolved. By royal sign manual he assumed the name and arms of Legh, and became known afterwards as Richard Crosse Legh of Adlington in Cheshire, and Shaw Hill in Lancashire. (Portrait at Adlington.)

He married Ann, only surviving daughter of Robert Parker of Cuerdon, and had issue Thomas Crosse Legh, who was born in 1796, and who succeeded his father in the Cheshire estates in 1822. In 1814 he married Louisa, daughter of George Lewis Newnham of Newtimber, Sussex, by Mary Diana, only daughter of Sir William Aston of Addington near Croydon.[13]

[13] The Newnhams of Newtimber bore for arms argent a cross sable, over all a bend vert. For crest a demi-lion rampant charged with a bend vert. Lewis Newnham of London and Sussex married Theodosia, daughter of Sir William Leman of Northaw, Herts, by whom he had a son Nathaniel, of Streatham, Boghley, and of Newtimber in Sussex. Nathaniel Newnham's son was the above-named George Lewis Newnham. His daughter, Ann, was married to Sir Dudley Ryder, justice of king's bench and ancestor of Lord Harrowby. The present representative of the family, without the landed estates, is John Newnham, her majesty's consul at Amsterdam, who married in 1859 Louisa, daughter of the late Canon Ryder at Lichfield. The twin porrtaits of George Lewis Newnham and of his wife Diana, with her son at her knee, by Opie, are preserved at Adlington. He is habited in his legal robes. This painting was considered by Opie as his finest work.

Thomas Crosse Legh died in his 34th year, by accidental drowning whilst crossing the river near Antwerp. Shortly before this event happened, and on the death of Richard Townley Crosse in 1828 without issue, the Shaw Hill and Lancashire possessions were alienated in favour of Ann Mary Crosse,[14] who married Mr. Bright Ikin of Leeds, who assumed the name of Crosse, and ultimately became possessor of Shaw Hill, &c., *jure uxoris*, by deed of settlement. Mr. Legh's widow married, secondly, the Hon. Thomas Americus Erskine, afterwards third baron Erskine, grandson of lord chancellor Erskine. She died in 1867, aged 72, and is buried in Prestbury churchyard along with her only brother, John Lewis Newnham.

Thomas Crosse Legh was succeeded in the Adlington estates by his only son, Charles Richard Banastre Legh, the present representative of the family, at that time a minor in his ninth year. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, is a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for Cheshire, and was for several years a captain in the earl of Chester's yeomany cavalry. He married Mary Jane Annabella, second daughter of the Rev. Henry Wright of Mottram-St.-Andrew, by whom he has one son, Charles Henry Americus, born in 1858, and two daughters.

Adlington Hall,

The seat of the Leghs of Adlington, is a massive building, situate in the township of Adlington, in the parish of Prestbury. It stands in a large and handsome park, and is built adjacent to a bend in the river Bollin. It is quadrangular in shape, and the architecture is of the 16th and 18th century styles respectively. As built by Thomas Legh, in the reign of Elizabeth, the style throughout was half-timbered ; but the front and the right wing were removed in 1757 by Charles Legh, who replaced them with a pedimented brick front and wing, and who built the domestic chapel in the opposite wing, and in many other respects altered

[14] See Burke's *Landed Gentry*, Crosse of Shaw Hill.

the internal economy of the house. There are some remains of a former house erected in the reign of Henry VII., by Thomas Legh and Catherine (Savage) his wife, in the year 1504.

The quadrangle is approached beneath a four-columned portico, the pediment of which holds the armorial quarterings of the Leghs up to the date of erection. Beneath the pediment is written in stone letters, "Charles and Hester Legh, 1757." The oak door is the original one, very massive, and pierced in three or four places with bullet holes made in the days of the civil wars. On the opposite side of the quadrangle another door leads to the large entrance hall, which is said to be the handsomest in the county. Over the door the following inscription is carved in relief out of the oak beam:

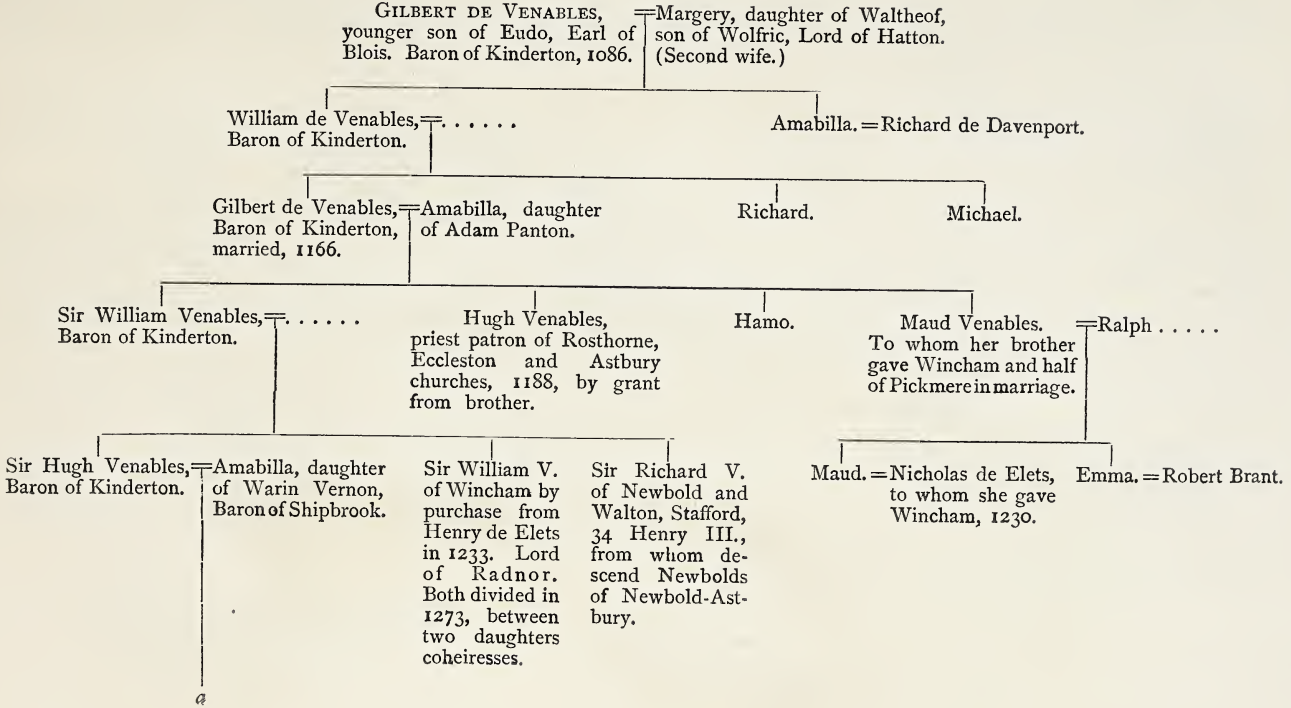
Thomas Legh esquyer who maryed Sybbel doughter to Urian Brereton of Handforde knighte and by her had issue foure sonnes and fybe doughters made this buyldinge in the yeare of ō Lorde God 1581 and in the raigne of our Sobeyraigne Lady Queene Elizabeth the 23d.

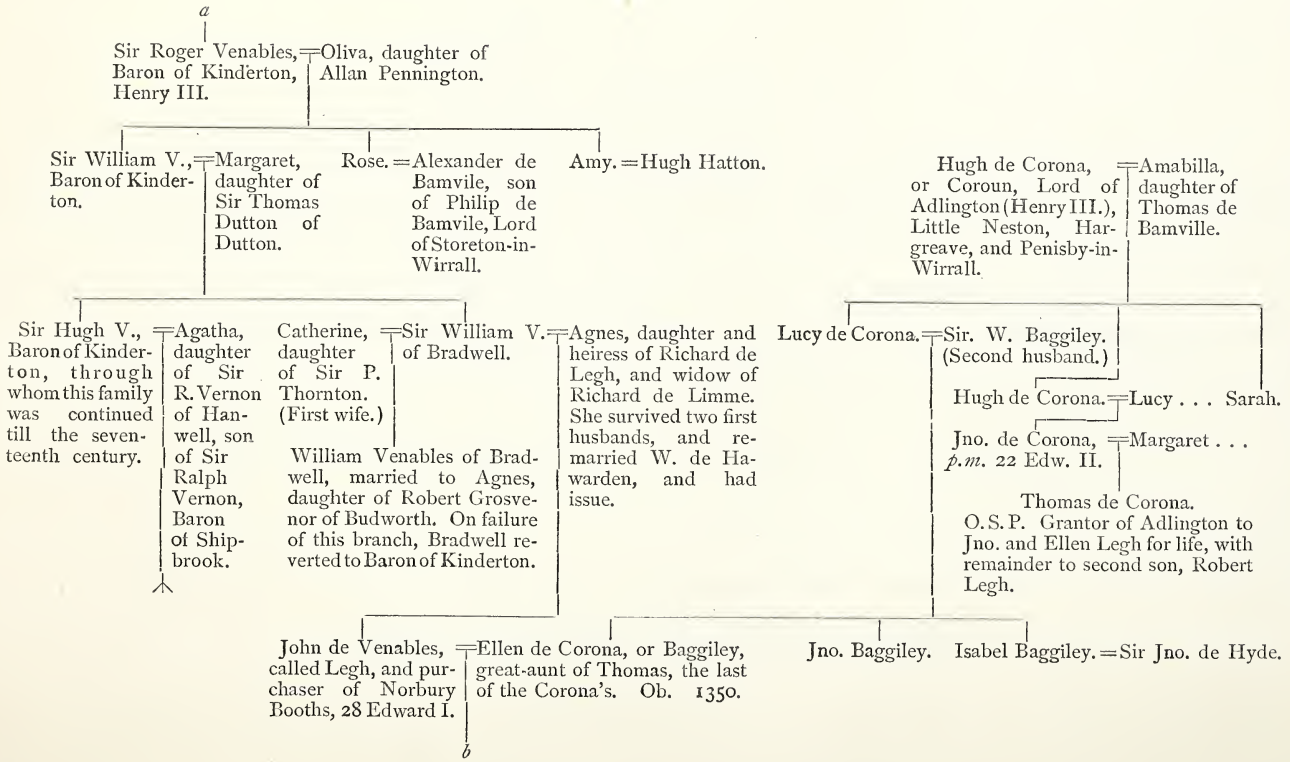
The hall, which is of noble proportions, rises uninterruptedly from floor to roof, and has a minstrel's and a lady's gallery opening into it. The open hammer-beamed roof is richly panneled. Each pannel is adorned with an armorial shield, of which there are eight consecutive rows. The heraldic insignia of the seven Norman earls of Chester, and of their eight barons, are displayed in the first three rows. Beneath them, and arranged in three rows, are the arms of Cheshire gentlemen, numbering thirty-six in all. Beneath them the matrimonial alliances of the Leghs of Adlington are set forth, in two rows, to the number of sixteen. Then follows the shield of Legh, with six quarters. Each roof bracket is ornamented with an angel with extended wings, six in all, each bearing a shield of arms.

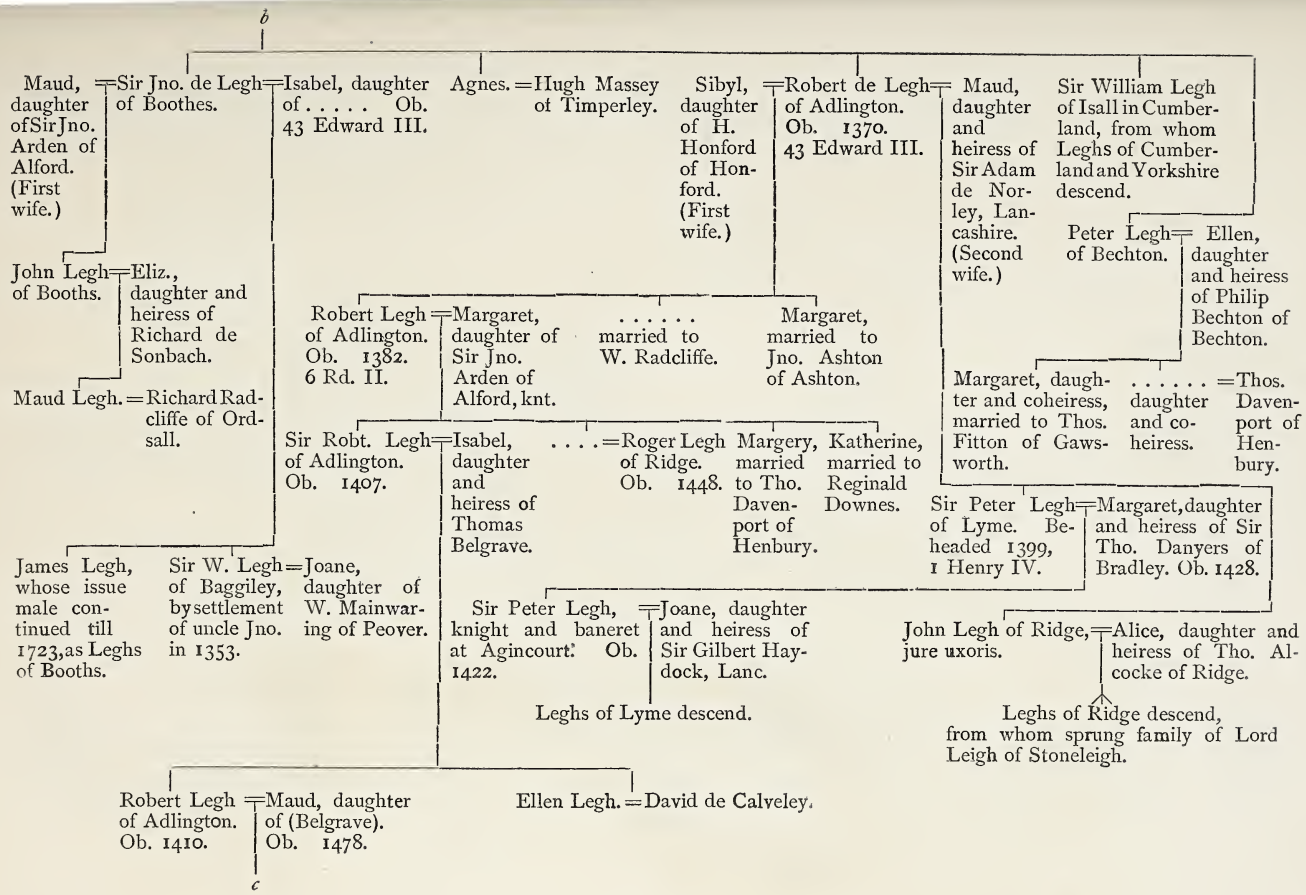
All this decoration was effected as early as the year 1744. Prior to this, and as early as 1611, the walls of the hall were covered with armorial shields to the number of 183. An account

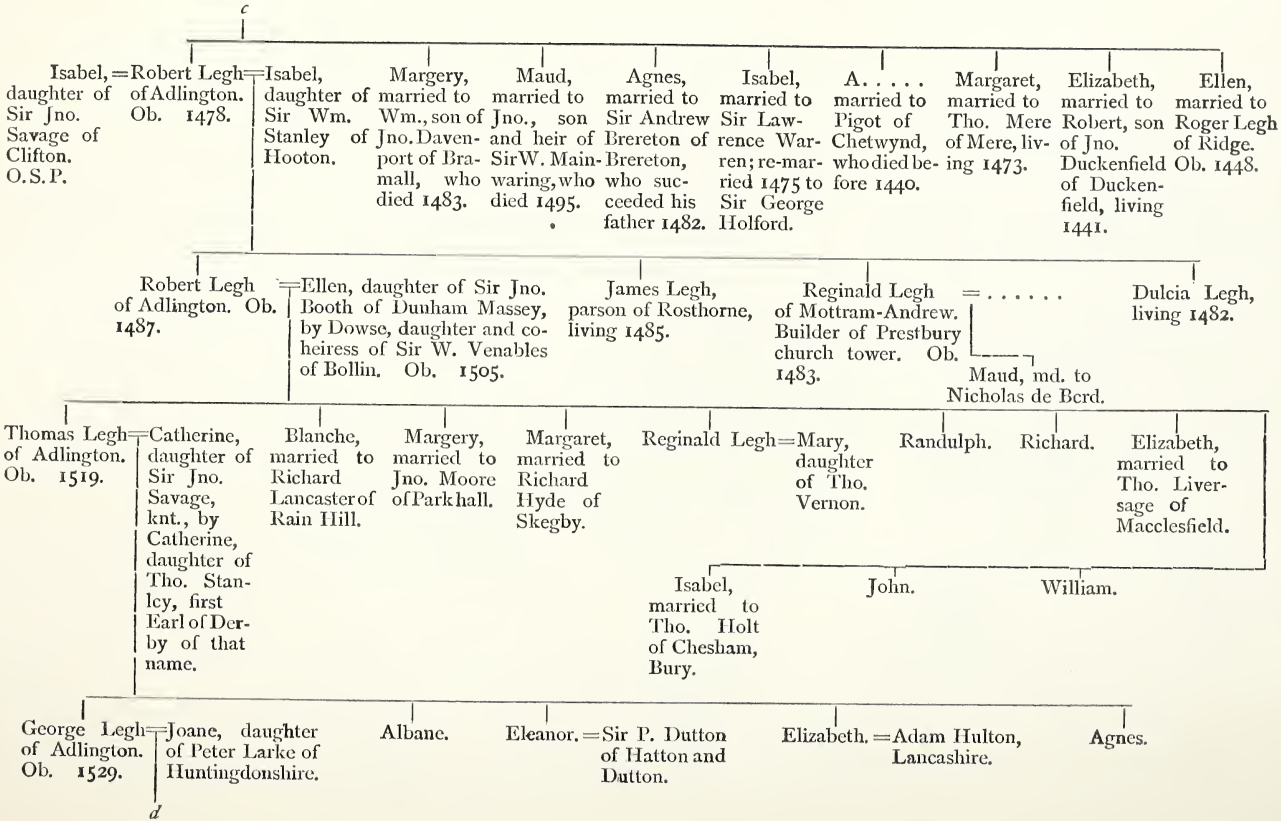
of them is preserved in the *Adlington MS.* in the Chetham library. They were the work of Thomas Legh who built the hall, and who was blood relation and cotemporary of Sir Peter Legh of Lyme. Both were greatly given to heraldic studies, and each enjoyed the friendship of Flower, the herald. The dining and drawing rooms were remodelled by Charles Legh, and each room has carvings by G. Gibbons.

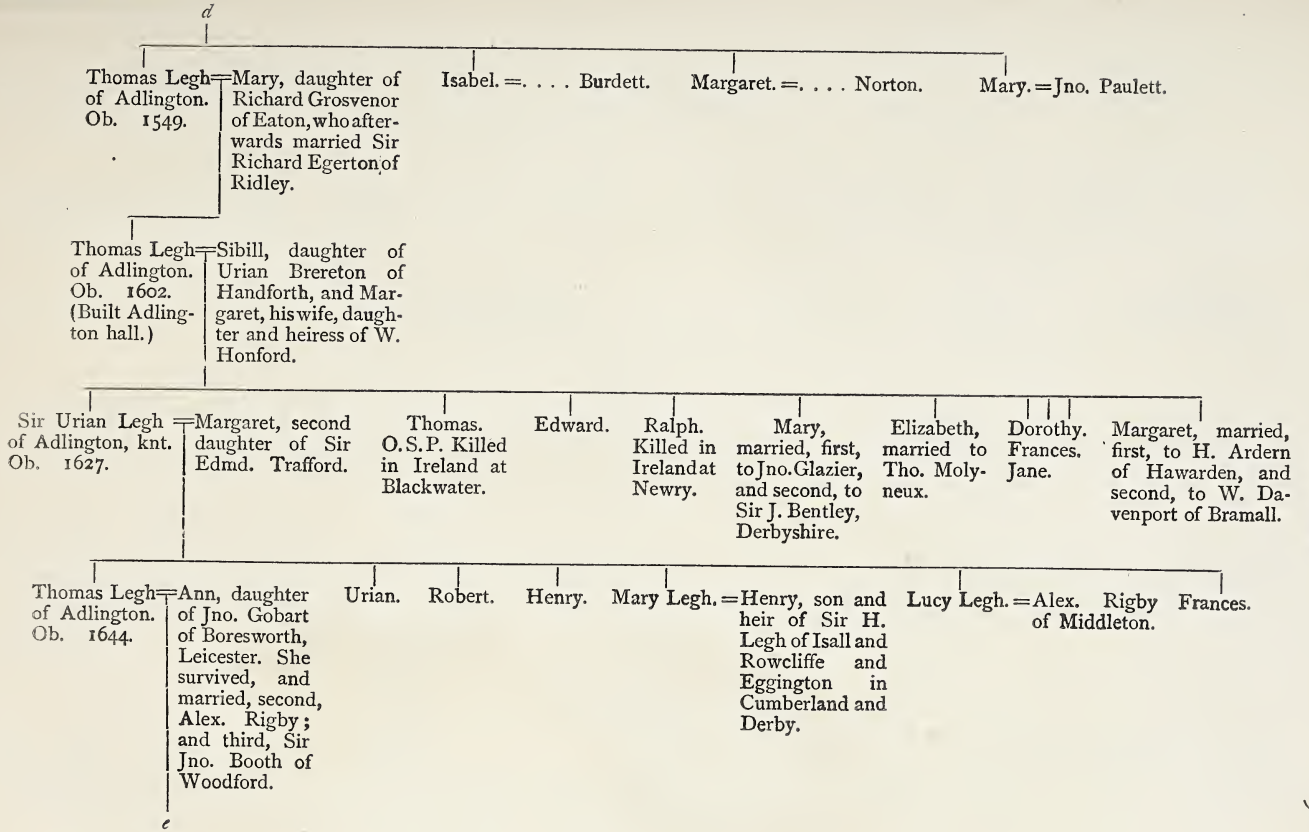
Pedigree of Legh of Adlington.

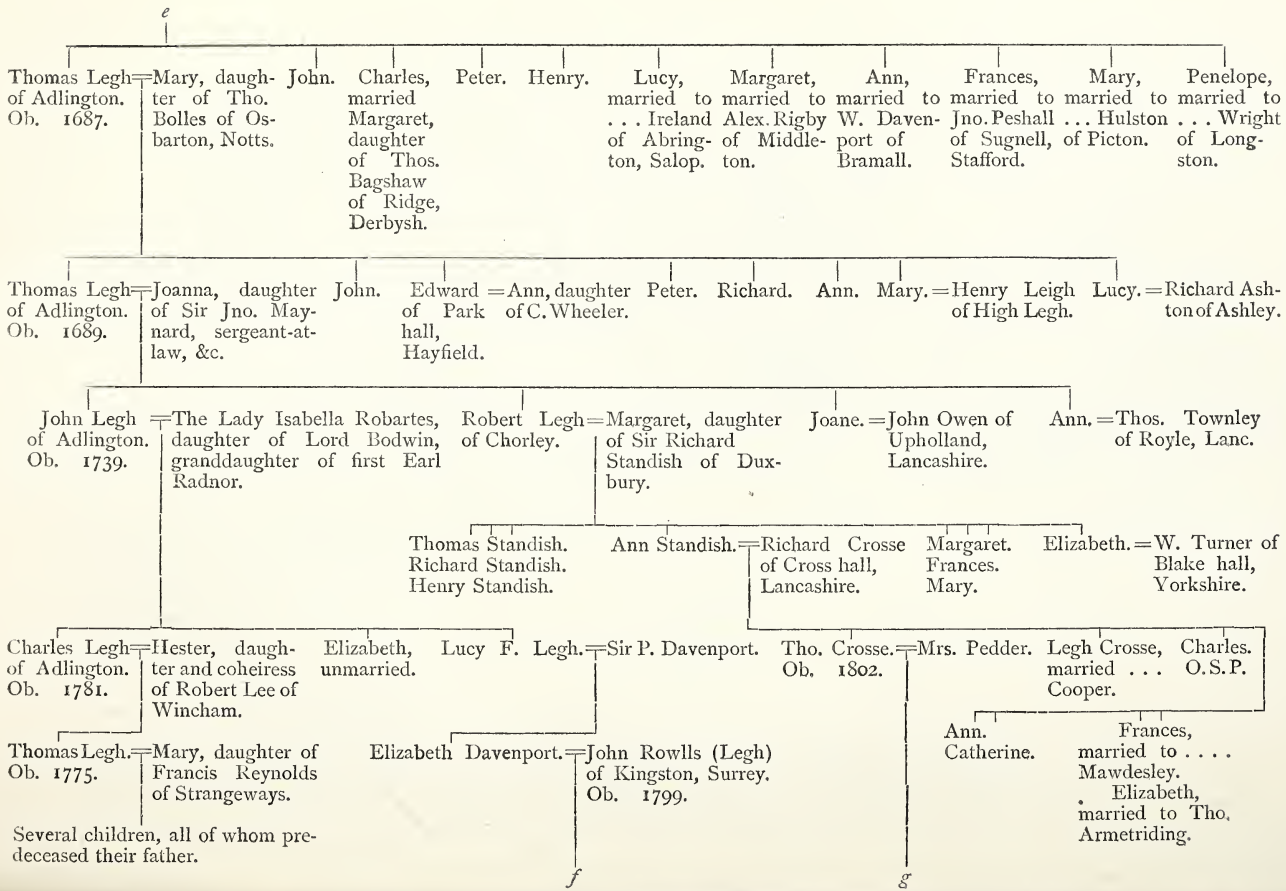


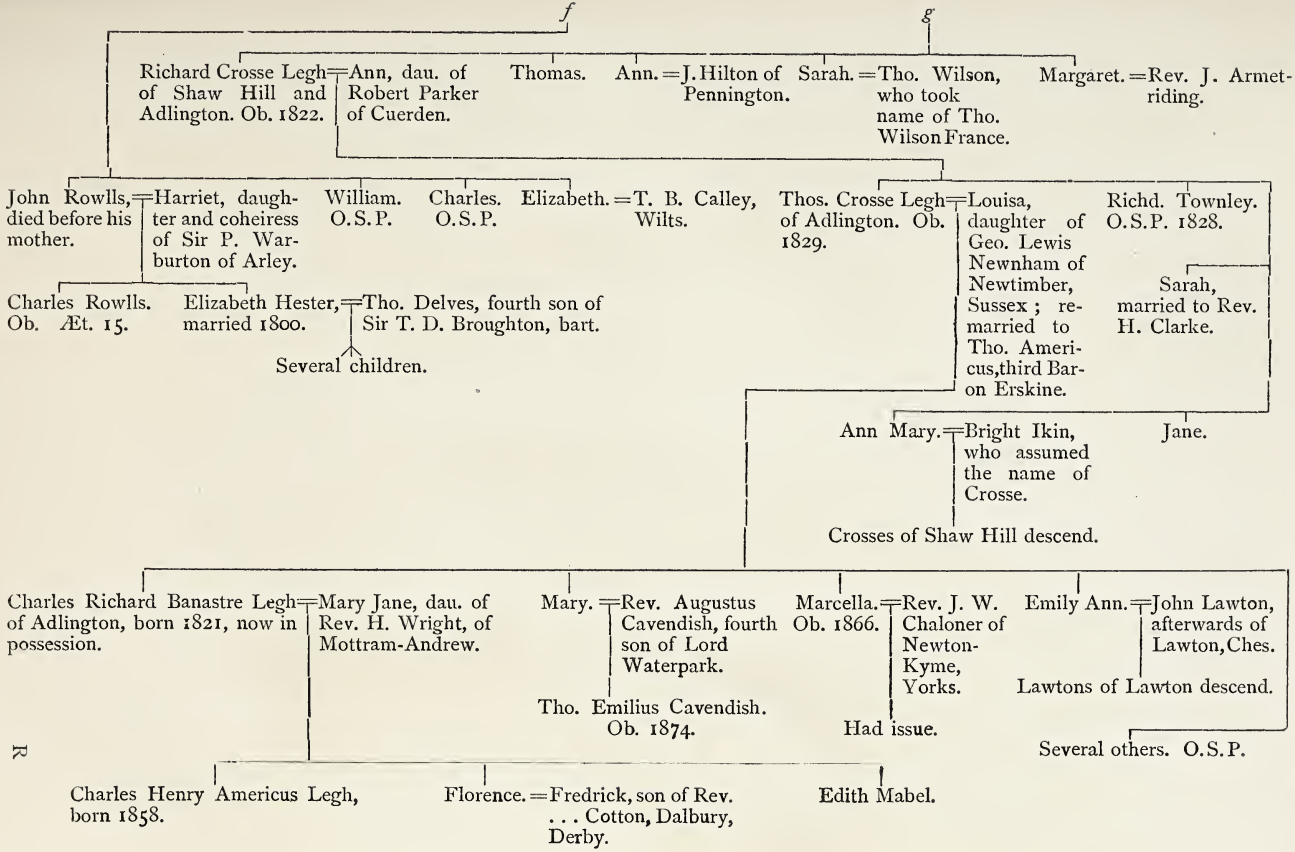

a
Sir Roger Venables, Baron of Kinderton, Henry III.
Oliva, daughter of Allan Pennington.
Sir William V., Baron of Kinderton.
Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Dutton of Dutton.
Rose.
Alexander de Bamvile, son of Philip de Bamvile, Lord of Storeton-in-Wirrall.
Amy.
Hugh Hatton.
Hugh de Corona, or Coroun, Lord of Adlington (Henry III.), Little Neston, Hargreave, and Penisby-in-Wirrall.
Amabilla, daughter of Thomas de Bamville.
Sir Hugh V., Baron of Kinderton, through whom this family was continued till the seventeenth century.
Agatha, daughter of Sir R. Vernon of Hanwell, son of Sir Ralph Vernon, Baron of Shipbrook.
Catherine, daughter of Sir P. Thornton. (First wife.)
Sir William V. of Bradwell.
William Venables of Bradwell, married to Agnes, daughter of Robert Grosvenor of Budworth. On failure of this branch, Bradwell reverted to Baron of Kinderton.
Agnes, daughter and heiress of Richard de Legh, and widow of Richard de Limme. She survived two first husbands, and remarried W. de Hawarden, and had issue.
Lucy de Corona.
Sir. W. Baggiley. (Second husband.)
Hugh de Corona.
Lucy . . .
Sarah.
Jno. de Corona, *p.m.* 22 Edw. II.
Margaret . . .
Thomas de Corona. O.S.P. Grantor of Adlington to Jno. and Ellen Legh for life, with remainder to second son, Robert Legh.
John de Venables, called Legh, and purchaser of Norbury Booths, 28 Edward I.
Ellen de Corona, or Baggiley, great-aunt of Thomas, the last of the Corona's. Ob. 1350.
Jno. Baggiley.
Isabel Baggiley.
Sir Jno. de Hyde.
b


b
Maud, daughter of Sir Jno. Arden of Alford. (First wife.)
Sir Jno. de Legh of Boothes.
Isabel, daughter of . . . . . Ob. 43 Edward III.
Agnes.
Hugh Massey of Timperley.
Sibyl, daughter of H. Honford of Honford. (First wife.)
Robert de Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1370. 43 Edward III.
Maud, daughter and heiress of Sir Adam de Norley, Lancashire. (Second wife.)
Sir William Legh of Isall in Cumberland, from whom Leghs of Cumberland and Yorkshire descend.
Peter Legh of Bechton.
Ellen, daughter and heiress of Philip Bechton of Bechton.
John Legh of Booths.
Eliz., daughter and heiress of Richard de Sonbach.
Maud Legh.
Richard Radcliffe of Ordsall.
Robert Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1382. 6 Rd. II.
Margaret, daughter of Sir Jno. Arden of Alford, knt.
. . . . . married to W. Radcliffe.
Margaret, married to Jno. Ashton of Ashton.
Margaret, daughter and coheiress, married to Thos. Fitton of Gawsworth.
. . . . . daughter and coheiress.
Thos. Davenport of Henbury.
Sir Robt. Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1407.
Isabel, daughter and heiress of Thomas Belgrave.
. . . .
Roger Legh of Ridge. Ob. 1448.
Margery, married to Tho. Davenport of Henbury.
Katherine, married to Reginald Downes.
Sir Peter Legh of Lyme. Beheaded 1399, 1 Henry IV.
Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Tho. Danyers of Bradley. Ob. 1428.
James Legh, whose issue male continued till 1723, as Leghs of Booths.
Sir W. Legh of Baggiley, by settlement of uncle Jno. in 1353.
Joane, daughter of W. Mainwaring of Peover.
Sir Peter Legh, knight and baneret at Agincourt. Ob. 1422.
Joane, daughter and heiress of Sir Gilbert Haydock, Lanc.
Leghs of Lyme descend.
John Legh of Ridge, jure uxoris.
Alice, daughter and heiress of Tho. Alcocke of Ridge.
Leghs of Ridge descend, from whom sprung family of Lord Leigh of Stoneleigh.
Robert Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1410.
Maud, daughter of (Belgrave). Ob. 1478.
Ellen Legh.
David de Calveley.
c


c
Isabel, daughter of Sir Jno. Savage of Clifton. O.S.P.
Robert Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1478.
Isabel, daughter of Sir Wm. Stanley of Hooton.
Margery, married to Wm., son of Jno. Davenport of Bramall, who died 1483.
Maud, married to Jno., son and heir of Sir W. Mainwaring, who died 1495.
Agnes, married to Sir Andrew Brereton of Brereton, who succeeded his father 1482.
Isabel, married to Sir Lawrence Warren; re-married 1475 to Sir George Holford.
A. . . . . married to Pigot of Chetwynd, who died before 1440.
Margaret, married to Tho. Mere of Mere, living 1473.
Elizabeth, married to Robert, son of Jno. Duckenfield of Duckenfield, living 1441.
Ellen, married to Roger Legh of Ridge. Ob. 1448.
Robert Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1487.
Ellen, daughter of Sir Jno. Booth of Dunham Massey, by Dowse, daughter and co-heiress of Sir W. Venables of Bollin. Ob. 1505.
James Legh, parson of Rosthorne, living 1485.
Reginald Legh of Mottram-Andrew. Builder of Prestbury church tower. Ob. 1483.
. . . . . .
Maud, md. to Nicholas de Berd.
Dulcia Legh, living 1482.
Thomas Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1519.
Catherine, daughter of Sir Jno. Savage, knt., by Catherine, daughter of Tho. Stanley, first Earl of Derby of that name.
Blanche, married to Richard Lancaster of Rain Hill.
Margery, married to Jno. Moore of Parkhall.
Margaret, married to Richard Hyde of Skegby.
Reginald Legh
Mary, daughter of Tho. Vernon.
Randulph.
Richard.
Elizabeth, married to Tho. Liversage of Macclesfield.
Isabel, married to Tho. Holt of Chesham, Bury.
John.
William.
George Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1529.
Joane, daughter of Peter Larke of Huntingdonshire.
d
Albane.
Eleanor.
Sir P. Dutton of Hatton and Dutton.
Elizabeth.
Adam Hulton, Lancashire.
Agnes.


d
Thomas Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1549.
Mary, daughter of Richard Grosvenor of Eaton, who afterwards married Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley.
Isabel. =. . . . Burdett.
Margaret. =. . . . Norton.
Mary. =Jno. Paulett.
Thomas Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1602. (Built Adlington hall.)
Sibill, daughter of Urian Brereton of Handforth, and Margaret, his wife, daughter and heiress of W. Honford.
Sir Urian Legh of Adlington, knt. Ob. 1627.
Margaret, second daughter of Sir Edmd. Trafford.
Thomas. O.S.P. Killed in Ireland at Blackwater.
Edward.
Ralph. Killed in Ireland at Newry.
Mary, married, first, to Jno. Glazier, and second, to Sir J. Bentley, Derbyshire.
Elizabeth, married to Tho. Molyneux.
Dorothy.
Frances.
Jane.
Margaret, married, first, to H. Ardern of Hawarden, and second, to W. Davenport of Bramall.
Thomas Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1644.
Ann, daughter of Jno. Gobart of Boresworth, Leicester. She survived, and married, second, Alex. Rigby; and third, Sir Jno. Booth of Woodford.
Urian.
Robert.
Henry.
Mary Legh. =Henry, son and heir of Sir H. Legh of Isall and Rowcliffe and Eggington in Cumberland and Derby.
Lucy Legh. =Alex. Rigby of Middleton.
Frances.
e


e
Thomas Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1687.
Mary, daughter of Tho. Bolles of Osbarton, Notts.
John.
Charles, married Margaret, daughter of Thos. Bagshaw of Ridge, Derbysh.
Peter.
Henry.
Lucy, married to . . . Ireland of Abrington, Salop.
Margaret, married to Alex. Rigby of Middleton.
Ann, married to W. Davenport of Bramall.
Frances, married to Jno. Peshall of Sugnell, Stafford.
Mary, married to . . . Hulston of Picton.
Penelope, married to . . . Wright of Longston.
Thomas Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1689.
Joanna, daughter of Sir Jno. Maynard, sergeant-at-law, &c.
John.
Edward of Park hall, Hayfield.
Ann, daughter of C. Wheeler.
Peter.
Richard.
Ann.
Mary.
Henry Leigh of High Legh.
Lucy.
Richard Ashton of Ashley.
John Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1739.
The Lady Isabella Robartes, daughter of Lord Bodwin, granddaughter of first Earl Radnor.
Robert Legh of Chorley.
Margaret, daughter of Sir Richard Standish of Duxbury.
Joane.
John Owen of Upholland, Lancashire.
Ann.
Thos. Townley of Royle, Lanc.
Thomas Standish.
Richard Standish.
Henry Standish.
Ann Standish.
Richard Crosse of Cross hall, Lancashire.
Margaret.
Frances.
Mary.
Elizabeth.
W. Turner of Blake hall, Yorkshire.
Charles Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1781.
Hester, daughter and coheiress of Robert Lee of Wincham.
Elizabeth, unmarried.
Lucy F. Legh.
Sir P. Davenport.
Tho. Crosse. Ob. 1802.
Mrs. Pedder.
Legh Crosse, married . . . Cooper.
Charles. O.S.P.
Thomas Legh. Ob. 1775.
Mary, daughter of Francis Reynolds of Strangeways.
Several children, all of whom predeceased their father.
Elizabeth Davenport.
John Rowlls (Legh) of Kingston, Surrey. Ob. 1799.
Ann. Catherine.
Frances, married to . . . . Mawdesley.
Elizabeth, married to Tho. Armetriding.
f
g


f
g
Richard Crosse Legh of Shaw Hill and Adlington. Ob. 1822.
Ann, dau. of Robert Parker of Cuerden.
Thomas.
Ann. = J. Hilton of Pennington.
Sarah. = Tho. Wilson, who took name of Tho. Wilson France.
Margaret. = Rev. J. Armetriding.
John Rowlls, died before his mother.
Harriet, daughter and coheiress of Sir P. Warburton of Arley.
William. O.S.P.
Charles. O.S.P.
Elizabeth. = T. B. Calley, Wilts.
Thos. Crosse Legh of Adlington. Ob. 1829.
Louisa, daughter of Geo. Lewis Newnham of Newtimber, Sussex; remarried to Tho. Americus, third Baron Erskine.
Richd. Townley. O.S.P. 1828.
Charles Rowlls. Ob. Æt. 15.
Elizabeth Hester, married 1800.
Tho. Delves, fourth son of Sir T. D. Broughton, bart.
Several children.
Sarah, married to Rev. H. Clarke.
Ann Mary. = Bright Ikin, who assumed the name of Crosse.
Jane.
Crosses of Shaw Hill descend.
Charles Richard Banastre Legh of Adlington, born 1821, now in possession.
Mary Jane, dau. of Rev. H. Wright, of Mottram-Andrew.
Mary. = Rev. Augustus Cavendish, fourth son of Lord Waterpark.
Tho. Emilius Cavendish. Ob. 1874.
Marcella. Ob. 1866. = Rev. J. W. Chaloner of Newton-Kyme, Yorks.
Had issue.
Emily Ann. = John Lawton, afterwards of Lawton, Ches.
Lawtons of Lawton descend.
Several others. O.S.P.
Charles Henry Americus Legh, born 1858.
Florence. = Fredrick, son of Rev. . . . Cotton, Dalbury, Derby.
Edith Mabel.

WOODFORD HALL, OLD AND NEW,

Is the property of the Davenports of Woodford and Capesthorne, and was a residence of the Davenports in times gone by. The old hall was of the usual black-and-white architecture common in Cheshire, and of moderate dimensions. In 1636 it gave place to the "new hall," which is gabled and built of stone, and is also of very moderate size. The windows are square-headed, stone mullioned, and of eight and ten lights respectively. On a stone label over the entrance doorway the arms of the Davenports are carved out, with the initial letters W. D. and E. D. on either side. Above is the date, 1636. Several of the window panes are written on with a diamond, apparently in moments of idleness or conviviality. They serve to show that the Davenports and Leghs of Adlington lived on terms of friendly intimacy. On one pane is scratched, "Davies Davenport, 1720." On another "Ann Siddall." On a third "J. Dod, April 20, 1728." On a fourth "Peter Davenport, Ap^{ll} 12, 1724, long live, D.V. Charles Legh, 1724." On a fifth, "Charles Legh, long live good company, Davenport." On a sixth, "Mrs. Legh, Mrs. Lucy Legh. Heaven long preserve you both. Amen. June 7, 1726. P. D."

Davies Davenport, above mentioned, married the heiress of John Ward, Esq., of Capesthorne, in 1721; and, in consequence of this event, removed to Capesthorne, which has since been the family seat. Woodford new hall is now occupied as a farm house.

Lucy Legh, named on the sixth pane of glass, became the wife of Peter, afterwards Sir Peter Davenport, knight, who died in the year 1746. (See pedigree of Legh of Adlington.)

The initials over the doorway are those of William Davenport, and of his wife Elizabeth, daughter of William Rawlinson of Heathfield, Derbyshire, who died in 1656, and was buried at Prestbury.

LEGH OF LYME.

The pedigree of this family has been drawn by Dugdale, Glover, Yardswick, Ormerod, and others. Errors have crept into the draughts of Dugdale and Ormerod.

Dugdale rightly deduces the descent of Legh of Lyme from Robert Legh of Adlington; but instead of making John Legh of Ridge a brother of the first Legh of Lyme, he makes him a nephew, by a roundabout and inexplicable connexion.

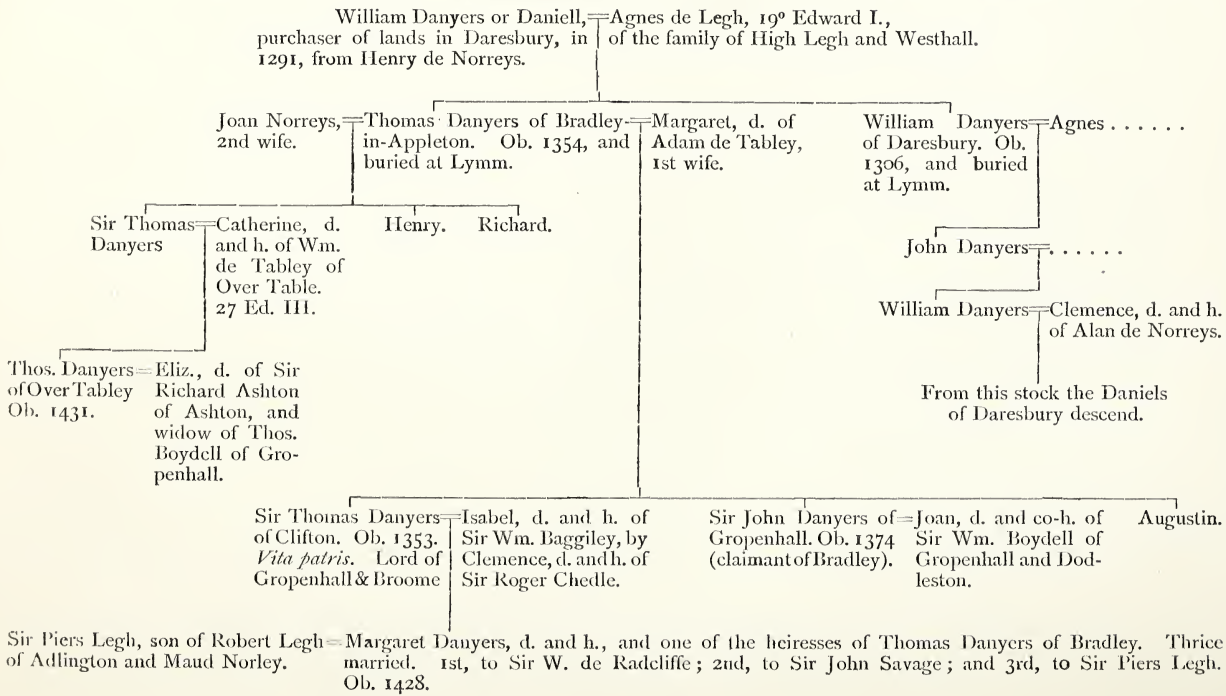
Dr. Ormerod's pedigree errs in making Maud Arderne the mother of Sir Piers Legh the first of Lyme; and, by so doing, the maternity and succession are alike vitiated, as the Lyme Leghs are placed two generations behind those of Adlington, instead of one.

Dr. Ormerod quotes Mr. Browne's note at the foot of his pedigree, which is the true account.

The pedigree in Claughton church, which is also printed in Whittaker's *Richmondshire*, is apparently drawn by Glover; whilst that by Yardswick in the *Harleian MSS.* is almost certainly a copy of Glover's.

The pedigree, drawn up by me, of the Leghs of Adlington, shows the exact manner in which the Leghs of Lyme branched off from that family. In the accompanying pedigree I have endeavoured to show the descent of the family of Danyers, or Daniel, up to the time when Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Danyers, became the wife of Sir Piers Legh the first of Lyme. This is the more necessary, as the main genealogical difficulty has consisted in determining, first, the manner in which one family of Legh branched off from the other; and second, the manner in which the estate of Lyme Hanley came to be a Legh possession.

Descent of Margaret Danyers, wife of the first Sir Piers Legh of Lyme.



The following pedigree of Legh of Lyme was in the possession of Mr. Sampson Yardswick in April, 1576. It was copied into Bostock's *Cheshire Collections*, and now forms a part of the *Harleian MSS.*, from which it was extracted by me in 1857:

No'leigh. Norley. Pemberton. ov. Walton. Hoole.

Legh. Hanley. gevē by K. R$^{d.}$ 2.

Sir Rob. Leighe of Adlington knight maried for his second (or later) wife ..... doughter and heir of Adam de Norley, knight, by which their descended to her son and heir Peter Leigh, Norley, Pemberton, over Walton, and Hoole.

Daniers. Gropenhall. Broome.

Peter Leighe Esquire, justicer stuard of Macclesfield in the forest thereof, married Marg^{t} d. and one of the heirs of Thomas Danyers, knight, of Bradley, by whom descended Gropenhall and Broome, to which Peter and Margaret, and their heirs male, K. R^{d} 2 gave Hanley not only for the relevynge of his father's standard at the battle of Cressy, but also for the manfull takynge of the Earl of Tankarville at the said battle, as sheweth by the letters patent of the said K. R^{d} 2. Afterwards beheaded by K. H^{y} 4, 1400.

Haydock. Haydocke. Bradley. Burton wood. Werington. Onforthe. Sonkey. Bolde. Newton. Lawton. Golbron. Walton-in-le-Dale.

Peter Leghe K^{t} Ban^{t} m^{d} Joane d. & h. of Sir Gilbert Haydocke, by whom descended Bradley, Burton wood, Newton, Waryngton, Onfeth, Sonkey, Bold, Hadocke, Lawton, Golbron, and Walton-le-dale, and he was slayin at the battle of Agincourt in An. dom̄. 1422. Ossa sepelita apud Macclesfield.

Peter Leghe, knighted at the bataile of Wakefield by Richard Duke of Yorke. He mar. Margarett d. of Sir Richard Molyneux, and dyed at Bradley Nov. 29 A.D. 1478. b^{d} at Winwicke.

Crofte. { Dalton, with the advowson of Claughton.

Peter Leghe Esquire m^d^ Mabell d. & h. of James Crofte, by whom descended Dalton, and the advowson of Claughton. He dyed at Macclesfield Aug. 2. A.D. 1486. b^d^ at Winwick.

Peter Leghe Knyght Ban^t^ and Priest, in his youth mar^d^ Helene d. of Sir J^no^ Savage K^t^. He was made Knight, and created Ban^t^ in the warres of Ed. 4 at Barwicke, and was maide priest in an. ætat. suæ 56, after the dethe of his wyfe, and he lyved 22 years, and buylded the Chappell at Dystley in A^o^ 1524.

(Peter his son was borne)

Sir Piers Legh of Norley, and the first of Lyme, was the son of the first Robert Legh of Adlington, by his second wife Maud, daughter and co-heiress of Adam de Norley of North Leigh, in Lancashire, and grand-daughter of Thurstan de Norley. In the *Placita Paschæ*, 34° Edward I., the following occurs: "Adam de Pemberton brought an action of trespass against Thurstan de Norley, and Matilda the wife of Adam de Norley, for cutting down and trespassing on his woods at Pemberton." Maud made over the Norley possessions to her son, as appears by the two following deeds *penes* Legh of Lyme: "Maud, late wife of Robert Legh the elder, grants to four chaplains, trustees, her manor of Norley and all her messuages, lands, and tenements, rents and services, with appurtenances in Mickellhole, &c. . . . . and all other lands in the Duchy of Lancaster, &c., to hold of the chief lord of the fee by services accustomed." This document is dated 1370, 43° Edward III. The next is as follows, and is dated 1382, 5° Richard II.: "The aforesaid four trustees release to Peter, son of Robert de Legh, all their right to the manor of North Legh with appurtenances, and all messuages, &c."

In this same year, 1382, Peter Legh sealed a deed in his own

right, with his coat of arms, viz., a cross fusily, circumscribed "Sigillum Petri de Legh." (Deed *penes* Legh. See seal, p. 80.) These are the armorial bearings that were used by the Norleys of North Legh, in Pemberton, and which Peter Legh inherited from his mother. The colours are gules, a cross fusily argent, though for many generations the cross engrailed (see quartered shield of Legh, p. 80) has been used instead of the cross fusily.

The release of the Norley manor determines the age of Sir Peter Legh. He attained to his majority in 1382, and was decapitated in 1399, and hence could not have reached the age of forty years at the date of his death. This point being conceded, it follows that he could not have taken part in the battle of Cressy (which was fought in 1346), as asserted by Dugdale, who further affirms that he acted as standard bearer to the Black Prince on that memorable occasion. That the reverse opinion had for centuries passed current is shown by the brass inscription appended to Sir P. Legh's monument in Macclesfield church, set up in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, which will be given presently.

The statement contained in Gregson's *Lancashire Fragments* to the effect that the augmentation to the arms of Legh was granted after the battle of Poictiers is equally fallacious, as it was fought in 1356.

Sir Thomas Danyers was the hero of Cressy, whose daughter and heiress Sir Peter Legh had married. He it was who rendered such substantial service to the Black Prince at Cressy, for which he was rewarded with a grant of forty marks a year, until such time as a convenient grant of land could be made to himself and his heirs.

This grant of land was made in 21° Richard II., jointly to Sir Peter Legh, and Margaret his wife, as appears by the records in the custody of the master of the rolls, known as the Cheshire Recognizance Rolls.

"Letters patent of Peter de Legh and Margaret his wife concerning a certain place called Hanley.

"Richard by the grace of God, &c. To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting. Know that our well beloved Sir Piers de Legh and Margaret his wife, the daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Danyers deceased, have made known to us that the most honorable lord our father, whom God absolve, for the good and free service which the said Thomas did to him not only by taking the earl of Tankarville prisoner, but also by relieving the shield of the said prince at the battle of Cressy, by letters patent granted to the said Thomas forty marks a year out of his manor of Frodsham in the county of Chester to be paid in two equal installments, &c., &c., until such time as lands to the value of 20 pounds a year could be provided in a suitable place for the said Thomas and his heirs for ever. And that in consequence of the death of the said Thomas before the forty marks a year could be exchanged for twenty pounds worth of land, as the said Peter and Margaret have made known to us, &c., we, of our special grace and favour, and in consideration of the good services rendered unto us by the said Peter, &c., &c., have given and granted to the said Peter and Margaret his wife, a parcel of land and pasture called Hanley lying in our forest of Macclesfield in y^e^ county of Chester which heretofore was farmed for 20 marks a year, to be held by them and their heirs for ever upon payment of sixpence annually to ourselves and our heirs, &c., &c. Given at Chester on the 4th of January, in the 21st of our reign."

Margaret Danyers had been twice a widow when she was married to her cousin, Sir Peter Legh, in 1388. She was the daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Danyers and Isabel, daughter and heiress of Sir William Baggiley. A papal dispensation for this marriage had to be obtained on account of the consanguinity. It is dated 1388, and is preserved at Lyme.

Her great-grandfather, William Daniel, purchased the manor of Bradley-in-Appleton from Sir P. Dutton in 1301. To this manor her grandfather, Thomas Daniel, succeeded by gift of William Daniel, who predeceased his father by one year, *i.e.*, in 1353. According to Sir P. Leicester, this event caused the

family inheritances to be diverted from Margaret to the heirs male of the Daniels. Be this as it may, Bradley manor ultimately came to her.

Yardswick expressly states that Margaret was one of the heirs of Sir Thomas Daniel of Bradley (her grandfather). Lyson says: "This same Margaret brought Bradley-in-Appleton to the Savages in marriage." And Dr. Ormerod quotes a *post mortem* inquisition in the time of Henry VI., to show that Bradley-in-Appleton belonged to the Savages.

Care must be taken not to confound Bradley-in-Appleton with Bradley-in-Burtonwood. The one is in Cheshire, and the other in Lancashire. Bradley, in Lancashire, as will presently appear, came into the Legh family when the second Sir P. Legh married the heiress of Haydock.

Margaret also came into possession of her mother's jointure, a part of which comprised the manor of Clifton, and from which circumstance Sir Thomas Danyers, or Daniel, was called of "Clifton."

Margaret's first husband was Sir John Radcliffe. She was a ward in the king's chancery, and of tender years at the time of her marriage; for in 33° Edward III., the king issued a writ from Westminster to the abbot of Whalley, Thomas de Lathom, Henry de Haydock, and John de Cockayn, commanding them to examine into all the circumstances of this marriage, and to report whether the ward was too young to have been married, and whether she had been married against her will; and if they so found, they were to separate her from her husband, and place her in safe custody, until otherwise instructed. They were further ordered to prohibit the marriage, if it had not already been solemnized. (Rymer's *Fœdera.*)

No measures were taken to enforce a separation; and later on, John de Radcliffe, and Margaret his wife, commenced an action against John Danyers, and Alice his wife, for the recovery of Bradley, on the ground that William Danyers, the great-grandfather of Margaret, had given it to her grandfather, and to

the heirs of his body. A copy of the original is preserved in the *Cheshire MS.* (*penes* Wood), and is as follows:

"Johannes de Ratcliffe et Margareta uxor ejus petit versus Johannem Danyers et Aliciam uxorem ejus manerium de Bradley que W. Danyers dedit Thomæ filio W. Danyers et heredibus de corpore suo exeuntibus. Et quod post mortem Thomæ filii W. et consanguineæ et heredi predicti Thomæ filii Will[i] descendere debent per forman donationis predictæ."

Sir P. Leicester's and Yardswick's statements, already quoted, serve to show that the manor of Bradley was in dispute; and that the action terminated in favour of Sir John Radcliffe and his wife Margaret. Margaret's second husband was Sir John Savage, of whom mention is made elsewhere. (*Vide* Macclesfield.)

It would appear that Sir Thomas Danyers, who married Katherine, the daughter and heir of William de Tabley of Over Tabley, claimed to have Nether Tabley also, which by a precept of the Black Prince, dated 48° Edward III., he was ordered to relinquish to John Savage and Margaret his wife. (Wood's *Cheshire MS.*)

"Edwardus fil. Regis, &c. Precipe Thomæ Danyers de Tabley et Catherinæ uxori ejus quod reddat Johī Savag et Margaretæ uxori ejus manerium de Nether Tableghe &c. Apud Cestram xx Oct. an. regni pat. mei 48."

By Sir P. Legh's marriage with Margaret, then the widow of Sir John Savage, Broome and the moiety of Gropenhall came to the family. The Gropenhall property came to her as follows: Sir William Boydell, of Dodleston and Gropenhall, left three children, *i.e.*, one son and two daughters. The son, William Boydell, married but died without issue; whereupon the estate devolved on his two sisters, Margaret and Joan. Joan married Sir John Daniel, who was second brother of Sir Thomas Daniel, the father of Margaret, and who thus became Sir John Daniel of Gropenhall. He died without leaving male issue, and the property then passed to Sir Thomas Daniel of Over Tabley, who was half-brother to Sir John, by Joan Norreys. (Leicester.)

Margaret Boydell married Owen Voyl, who subsequently released all his property in Gropenhall to Sir John Daniel, 25° Edward III. Sir John Daniel had two daughters, one of whom died without issue; and the other, Nicholaa, married and had a daughter, who became wife of Alan de Rixton. No issue following on this marriage, a moiety of Gropenhall passed to Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Danyers, as next of kin, and at that time wife of Sir John Savage. This moiety of Gropenhall she gave to her son, Sir P. Legh, during her widowhood. (Leicester.) And ever since this time the arms of Legh of Lyme have been augmented with those of Boydell of Dodleston and Gropenhall.

Sir Piers Legh suffered death by decapitation at Chester in 1399; whilst Margaret, his widow, survived till 1428, as appears by her *post mortem* record in the reign of Henry VI.

The Rev. John Wells (the translator of the French metrical History of the Deposition of Richard II., *Archæologia* vol. xx.), says that whilst Henry was at Chester, and the king at Conway Castle, he, *i.e.*, Henry of Lancaster, beheaded Sir Piers Legh, commonly called Perkin a Legh, a faithful adherent of Richard, and ordered his head to be set on one of the loftiest towers of Chester. His body was buried at Macclesfield, where the following epitaph, once cut in stone and now carved in brass, records the death of himself and his son:

> "Here lyethe the bodie of Perkin a Legh
> That for King Richard the death did die
> Betrayed for righteousness;
> And the bones of Sir Piers his sone
> That with King Henry the Fifth did wonne
> In Paris."

"This Perkin serv'd King Edward the third and the black Prince his son in all their wars in France and was at the battle of Cressie and had Lyme given him for that service and after their deaths servd King Richard 2 and left him not in his troubles but was taken with him and beheaded at Chester by

King Henry 4 and the said Sir Piers his son servd King Henry 5 and was slain at the battle of Agincourt. In their memory Sir Peter Legh of Lyme knight descended from them finding the said verses written upon a stone in this chapel did readifie this place 1620."

Sir Piers Legh the first of Lyme was justiciary stewart of Macclesfield, and of the forest of Macclesfield. He left issue Piers, or Peter Legh the second of Lyme, who was a minor when his father suffered decapitation for loyally serving his fallen master and king. If the respective dates of the father's marriage in 1388 and of the beheadment in 1399 be compared, it becomes plain that the eldest son was about eight, or from that to nine years old when he succeeded. Later on he was knighted, and afterwards created a bannaret.

He married Joan, daughter and heiress of Sir Gilbert Haydock of Haydock, near Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire, by whom he had a son also named Peter. By this alliance the extensive possessions of the Haydocks were added to those already in the family of Legh of Lyme, viz., Haydock, Bradley, Burtonwood, Warrington, Overford, Sonkey, Bold, Newton, Lawton, Golborne, and Walton-le-Dale.

Bradley-in-Burtonwood was the abode of the Haydocks. In the *Charter Rolls*, 18° Edward III., Gilbert de Haydock is said to have obtained license for imparking Bradley-in-Burtonwood, and for free warren. After the marriage of Sir P. Legh with the heiress of Sir Gilbert Haydock, Bradley-in-Burtonwood became the principal residence of the Leghs for several generations. In Leyland's *Itinerary*, temp. Henry VIII., the following entry occurs: "Syr Perse de Lee hath his place at Bradley in a park a two miles from Newton."

This manor was alienated a few years since by the Rev. Peter Legh, brother of Thomas Legh of Lyme, who sold it to Samuel Brooks, banker, of Manchester. The original gate tower of Bradley yet remains to point to the ancient stateliness of this manorial residence.

Sir Peter Legh took part in the French wars under Henry V., and was present at the battle of Agincourt, where he was wounded. Five retainers followed him into this engagement, viz., Robert and Hugh Orrell, Thomas Sutton, John Pigot, and George de Asheley. (*Vide* Sir N. H. Nichola's history of the battle.) It has been generally stated that Sir P. Legh died of these wounds in Paris; but as this latter event happened in 1422, *i.e.*, seven years after the battle of Agincourt, it is much more likely that he followed the king's standard in his subsequent wars with France, and was present at the siege of Meaux in 1421.

His remains were brought to England, and buried in the church of St. Michael in Macclesfield, in the rebuilding of which he appears to have taken an active interest.

After Sir Peter Legh's death, at the age of 33 years, his widow, Joan, married Sir Richard Molyneux of Sefton, in Lancashire. She lies buried under a stone altar tomb in Sefton church, around the edge of which the following inscription was once to be read, but is now totally obliterated:

"Hic jacet Domina Johanna quondam uxor Petri Legh militis, et postea uxor Ricardi Molineux militis, que fuit Domina de Bradley, Haydoke, et similiter tertiæ partis villarum de Warrington, Mikille Sonke, et Burtonwoode, ac eciam Domina diversarum parcellarum terrarum et tenementorum infra villas de Newton, Golbron, Lawton, Bold, et Walton le Dale, que obiit in festo sancti Sulpitii episcopi, in anno domini m.ccccxxxiv., cujus animæ propitietur Deus. Amen."

This inscription is the more valuable, because it shows the exact jurisdiction of the Leghs, as successors to the Haydocks, over the several possessions enumerated.

Sir Peter Legh, son and heir of the above, and the third of Lyme, was a minor at the time of his father's death. When of age, he married Margaret, the daughter of Sir Richard Molyneux, a choice in which he was doubtless very largely influenced by his mother's second marriage, and his tutelage under her husband at

Sefton. He was a remarkable man in many respects, full of prudence and caution, and moreover a great improver and cataloguer of his family possessions. Living in the time of the Wars of the Roses he sided with the Yorkists, and took part in the battle of Wakefield, where his ability earned for him the honour of knighthood, which he received at the hands of Richard Duke of York, the father of Edward IV. Amongst other offices, he held that of keeper of Rhudlan castle, with a salary of 40*l.* a year for his life.

He greatly enlarged and adorned his mansion at Bradley, of which place he styled himself, and where he died in 1478. His *MS.* rent roll was compiled in 1465. For the general character of this Sir P. Legh, and for a Latin and English copy of the rent roll, so far as Lancashire is concerned, the learned account by W. Beamont, Esq., may be consulted in the 17° vol. of the Chetham Society Transactions, entitled *Warrington in* 1465.

He was succeeded by his son Peter Legh, who married Mabel, daughter and co-heiress of James Croft of Dalton, whose mother was daughter and heiress of Butler of Freckleton. Through this alliance with the double heiress, the Leghs of Lyme were henceforward enabled to add the arms of Croft and Butler to their escutcheon. The alternate advowson of Claughton church came also by this marriage, a circumstance which serves to explain how the Legh pedigree came to be preserved there.

Peter Legh died at Macclesfield in 1486, in the lifetime of his father, and was buried at Winwick. He left a son Peter, afterwards Sir Peter Legh, soldier first, and priest afterwards. He married Helen, the daughter of Sir John Savage, knight, by whom he had a son and successor named Peter. In his earlier years, Sir Peter Legh followed the profession of arms, and was present at the seige of Berwick, where he was made a knight bannaret by Edward IV. After his wife's death, in 1492, he entered into holy orders, as may be gathered from the following monumental inscription on his brass in Winwick church, where his remains lie buried :

"Orate pro animabus probi viri Domini Petri Legh militis hic tumulati, et Dominæ Elenæ uxoris ejus filiæ Johannis Savage militis cujus quidem Elenæ corpus depositum apud Bellinginitt 17° die mensis Maii Anno Domini millesimo quadringentessimo et nonagessimo primo. Idem Petrus post ipsius Elenæ mortem in sacerdotem canonicæ consecratus. Obiit apud Lyme in Hanley xi die Augusti Anno millesimo quingentessimo vicessimo septimo."

Sir Peter Legh's arms, with six quarters, are engraved at the head of the brass; and the shield is surmounted with a ram's head erased holding a sprig of olive in the mouth, on a knight's helmet. The quarters are Haydock, Lyme, Boydell of Poulcroft, Ashton, Boydell of Dodleston and Gropenhall, and Croft dimidiated with Butler.

The record preserved in Claughton church touching the claim advanced to bear the arms of Ashton of Ashton in the second, or other quarter, of the Legh shield, only that the mullet should be differenced by a bezant in the first point, applies especially to this Sir Peter Legh. The Ashton arms, thus differenced, are placed quarterly in the second and third quarters in a shield of Legh of Lyme, drawn by Flower in 1580, in which the engrailed cross of Norley occupies the first and fourth quarters. (*Vide Adlington MS.* in Chetham College Library.)

Mr. William Langton,—so well known as a careful genealogist,—infers that this mullet was an armorial bearing to which Margaret Norley became entitled as heiress of Waren de Walton. She had two daughters, co-heiresses, one of whom, Maud, by marriage with Robert Legh of Adlington, became the mother of Sir Peter Legh of Lyme; whilst the other, Catherine, became the wife of Robert de Radcliffe. Additional weight is given to this assumption by the fact that the mullet is a Radcliffe quarter; and that it is a quartering of Barton of Holme, who married Joane, daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Radcliffe, whose son was Barton of Smithells.

If this be so, the mullet quarter must have been in abeyance

for more than a century, and then revived through the action of Sir Peter Legh.

This Ashton mullet appears for the first time as a Legh quartering on the Winwick brass; and though now no bezant can be seen, it was doubtless once visible.

After he became an ecclesiastic, Sir P. Legh built the chapel of Disley in 1524, and the "cage" at Lyme.[15] He is also reported to have raised funds for the building of Lymm church tower. After his death a law suit was instituted on the subject of Disley chapel, as appears by the following entry in the Calendar of Pleadings of the Duchy of Lancaster:

"A suit in which Edward Molyneux, clerk, Thurston Tyldsley, and others, executors of the will of Sir Peter Legh, knight and priest, deceased, were plaintiffs, and Peter Legh, son of the said Sir P. Legh k^t^ was defendant. The plaintiffs stated that amongst other bequests, the testator had disposed of part of the lands, messuages, rents, and services of lands in Dalton manor, Hulton, Aybank, Over-Burton, in Lancashire; and of Hanley, Lyme Park, Lyme, and Disley chapel, for the sustentation of a chapel which he had built at Dystley, and for other purposes. The Defendant insisted that the executors had taken the issues and profits to the amount of 215*l.* and upwards, whereof he claimed account."

It has been said traditionally that the building of Disley chapel was the fine imposed upon Sir P. Legh for the part he took in what is commonly known as the "Bewsey Tragedy;" but the improbability of the story,—nay, the almost impossibility of the murder of Sir John Boteler having been in any way accelerated by Sir Peter Legh, or William Savage, as agents of Lord Derby; or of Sir John Boteler himself having been murdered,—has been shown by Mr. Beamont in the *Annals of the Lords of Warrington*, p. 304 to 323, Chetham Society Transactions, vol. 87.

[15] The present "cage" is a much more recent erection.

Sir Peter Legh was succeeded by his son Peter, who was afflicted with lameness, and who was twice married: first, to Margaret, daughter of Nicholas Tyldesley, by whom he had a son; and second, to Jane, daughter of Peter Gerard of Bryn and Kingsley. In his father's time, Fernhed, Garstang, Allerton, Hyndley, and Bretherton, were added to the previous territorial possessions, as appears by the *post mortem* inquisition, 20° Henry VIII.

He died in 1541, and was succeeded by his son Peter Legh, who was a man of mark. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Gerard of Bryn. Three years after coming into possession, the honour of knighthood was conferred on him at Leith. He became sheriff of Cheshire and of Lancashire, and was subsequently provost marshall of both counties under the earl of Derby. In addition, he was a deputy steward of the hundred of Macclesfield, and a forester of the royal forest. Sir Peter was at once a soldier, a scholar, an architect, and a herald. He rebuilt Lyme hall, and to him was granted the escutcheon of augmentation to the shield of Lyme, consisting of an arm armed and embowed grasping in the hand a banner semée of stars.

He died in 1590, and was succeded by his grandson, Sir Peter Legh, son of Peter Legh (who died in 1570) and Catherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Venables of Kinderton. He was born in 1563, and married Margaret daughter of Sir Gilbert Gerrard, master of the rolls. He served the office of sheriff, and represented Cheshire in Parliament in 1593. Four years later he repaired the mansion belonging to his family at Bradley, as appears by an inscription on one of the beams. In 1598 he received the honour of knighthood from Queen Elizabeth, at Greenwich. For some time he acted as captain of the Isle of Man. Whittaker says that he re-roofed Disley church, and surrounded Lyme park with a wall. About 1600 he purchased Bruche from Roger and Hamet Bruche, and on the 13th February, 1603, he received a pardon under the great seal. (Beamont's *MS.* pedigree.)

He died in 1636, and was succeeded by Peter Legh, his son,

who married Ann, daughter of Sir John Savill of Howley, by whom he had issue a son Peter who died without issue, losing his life in a duel in 1641, by which fatality the direct succession was broken after having passed uninterruptedly through eleven generations, in every one of which the eldest son bore the name of Peter, or Piers.

In the Calendar of *post mortem* inquisitions 12° Charles I., the following list of messuages, mills, lands, woods, rents, &c., in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Westmorland, is given as having belonged to Peter Legh, who died in 1636:

Bradley manor, Burtonwood manor, Dalton manor, Haydock manor, Bruch manor, and Handley manor; Hulton, Pemberton, Norley, Bridgemore, Newton-in-Makerfield, Lawton, Golborne, Fernhead, Hindley, Kenion, Warington, Sonkey Magna and Parva, Overforde, Wolston, Penketh, Garston, Ollerton, Much Woulton, Much Hoole, Walton-le-Dale, Ulnes Walton, Bretherton, Eccleston juxta Crofton, Bold, Childwall, Croston, Poulton, the Advowson of Claughton juxta Horneby, the Church of Shevington, and the Church near Prescott. Lands, &c., in Westmorland. Lyme, Grapnall, Disley, Broome, Heatley, Sutton, Marple, Offerton, Norbury, Weyley, Macclesfield, Latchford, Warburton, Kettleshulme, and Bridgmoore.

After the death of the last-named, the succession and estates passed to an uncle, viz., to the Rev. Thomas Legh, D.D., rector of Sephton and Walton, whose wife was Lettice, daughter and co-heiress of Sir George Calveley of Lea.

Beyond this point I have not traced the family in exact succession; but have contented myself with making mention of such other members as are represented pictorially at Lyme hall.

Lyme Hall,

The residence of the Leghs of Lyme, is situate in the township of Lyme Handley, in the parish of Prestbury. It is a very stately residence, of massive proportions. In shape it is a quadrangle,

and it stands in a large and wild park, amongst the Cheshire moorlands, not far from the village of Disley.

Sir Peter Legh makes the earliest mention of Lyme hall in a *MS.* dated 1466, about seventy years after the first hall was built on the Lyme estate :

"In primis, dictus Petrus (Legh) tenet predictum manerium de Lyme in comitatu Cestriæ sibi heredibus et assignatis suis in perpetuum, videlicet una pulcra aula cum alta Camera, coquina, pistrina, et pandoxatorio, cum orreo stabulo, et domo Ballivi, cum pulcro parco cum palis circumclausis, et campis, et hais diversis in dicto parco contentis, cum bostis et subbostis, pratis pastuis, et pasturis, et suis pertinentiis limitatis modo et forma subsequente que valent dicto Petro per annum xli."

As the manor of Lyme was a part of the royal forest of Macclesfield until it was separated by the grant of Richard II., in favour of the first Sir Peter Legh of Lyme and his wife, no "fair hall" could have then existed ; and if Sir Peter built a house there it could not have been much prior to 1399.

The present hall is rich in architectural and heraldic decorations ; but none of these date before Elizabeth's reign. Consequently, if there was an earlier building *on the present site*, it has been overlayed or obscured by the architect who built the oldest part of the existing hall about the year 1569.

In the notes to Glover's pedigree of the Leghs of Lyme, preserved in Claughton church, it is expressly stated that Sir Peter Legh, who died in 1590, built a part of Lyme hall.

Up to the year 1569, Bradley-in-Burtonwood was the most favoured, and perhaps also the most stately residence of successive generations of the family.

Lyme hall, as it at present stands, is a three-storied quadrangular building, which exhibits many proofs of its Elizabethan origin both externally and internally, being rich in renaissance tracery displayed on panel and freize, on ceiling and chimney-piece ; whilst the royal arms in the central compartments of these latter display the French lilies quartered with the English

lions, supported with the crowned lion and griffon of the last of the Tudors.

Externally, the building has been so changed that only the original north front remains, in which the three orders of Greek column and capital are represented. The windows were of the usual square-headed, stone-mullioned, and many-lighted style of the 16th century; but in 1676 they were re-arranged and modernized by Mr. Richard Legh, whose cipher and arms are stamped on two of the leaden spouts, which are dated 1676. In the centre of the spout head there is the shield of Legh impaling Chicheley. The Legh coat is the same as Legh of Adlington, differenced with a crescent; and this coat Mr. Richard Legh of Lyme appears always to have borne, for it is repeated on glass in the drawing-room, and on the remains of his alabaster monument in Winwick church. On either side of the spout head the engrailed cross of Lyme and the plain cross of Haydock is represented.

In 1725 Lyme hall was delivered over to Leoni for external and other alterations. The south front is Leoni's altogether, and is a very fine specimen of Palladian architecture, adorned with a Corinthian-columned portico. Leoni's alterations were very extensive, and lasted till 1729.

In 1822, Mr. Wyatt, acting under instructions from Mr. Thomas Legh, raised a square story over this part of the hall, to the no small detriment of Leoni's frontage. Formerly the centre of the north front was surmounted with a lofty octagonal lantern, holding two tiers of square-headed windows. This has been removed and replaced by a statue of Minerva. The lantern now stands in an elevated part of the wood. From its site the hall can be seen to the best advantage, sheltered by the foliage of surrounding woods and adjacent hills; whilst below, the plain of Cheshire stretches away to the sea, the high ground of Alderley Edge alone intervening to break the landscape. Red and fallow deer, and a herd of wild cattle (now sadly diminished) roam in the extensive park. In the reign of Henry VIII., Lyme park is

thus described in an inventory taken of forest wastes, common lands, &c. *(Adlington MS.)*

"Item a comyn called Lyme now in the holdinge of Sir Peter Leygh which conteyneth in length two myles from a place called the Heayhough to the Bowstone, and in bredthe two myles from a place called the Edullgate to the Waterlowe, from a place called the Blackshawe within Lyme by estimacon a myle, and in bredthe half a myle. Item, within the said Lyme be eighteen comyns, and a park, and a manor place, and a mylne."

The right of free warren was granted to Sir Peter Legh and his heirs, by Queen Elizabeth.

The arms of Mr. Richard Legh, with eight quarterings, and crest encircled with the garter and motto "endiv et ma foi," are placed over the rounded archway that leads into the quadrangle. The quarters are: First, Corona; second, Legh of Lyme. Between these two the escutcheon with embowed arm and starred banner. Third, Butler; fourth, Croft; fifth, Haydock; sixth, Boydell of Poulcroft; seventh, Boydell of Gropenhall; and eighth, Ashton. (See shield of arms, p. 80.)

The rooms of Lyme hall untouched since Elizabeth's time are the "stone parlour," the drawing-room, the long gallery, the knights' room, and room adjoining. Those most altered are the entrance hall, library, saloon, and dining-room. In the two last, and on the capitals of the columns supporting the grand staircase, very precious specimens of Grindling Gibbons' carvings are to be seen.

In attempting to describe the interior of Lyme hall, enriched as it is with architecture, painting, sculpture, heraldry, and the fine arts, it becomes necessary to pursue a consistent plan; and this is the easier, because the principal suite of entertaining rooms is on the same floor, leading into one another. The only exceptions are the stone parlour on the ground floor, and the long gallery, and knights' room and adjoining room, on the upper story.

The entrance hall leads out of the court yard to the left,

and is approached by a flight of stone stairs. It was remodelled in 1822 by Wyatt, and is a large, lofty, and handsomely-proportioned room. The stone chimney-piece, also by Wyatt, is handsome in itself, though meagre when compared with its Elizabethan rivals. The ornamentations of helmets and swords are fit emblems of an abode that has domiciled so many generations of a knightly family.

The portrait of Sir Peter Legh hangs over this mantelpiece, not, as is often said, the founder of the family, but Sir Peter, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII., Mary, and Elizabeth, the restorer, or re-builder of the hall. He is habited in a close-fitting embroidered surcoat and ruffle. The right hand rests on a plumed helmet of the Tudor time, and the left grasps the hilt of a substantial sword. The face is bearded and moustached. Beneath this picture a long two-handled sword is fixed, with a knightly-looking pair of long-rowelled gilt spurs slung across it, and said to have been borne by Sir Perkin Legh.

The portrait of a young man habited in a bonnet set round with roses, and the motto "jusqu 'alors," hangs on the right wall. Examined carefully, the same features as those of Sir Peter Legh are recognizable, only this latter is the portrait of a young man. Again, the same face is displayed to the left of the chimneypiece, only the features are those of an old, though vigorous and determined man. It is in this last character, with silver hair and beard, that contemporary artists most frequently depicted the doughty knight, seeing that more than one portrait hangs on the walls, and more than one is displayed on stained glass.

To the right of the mantelpiece there is a portrait of Sir Thomas Chicheley of Wimpole, in Cambridgeshire, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and master of ordnance to Charles II. His daughter Elizabeth was wife of Richard Legh of Lyme. His portrait hangs on the left wall, and is that of a cavalier in buff coat, &c., of the later Caroline period. He was born in 1634, and died in 1637.

Opposite to this picture, on the same wall, is that of Richard

Legh's son, viz., Piers Legh, who married Frances Legh of Bruche, sister and heiress of her brother. He is said to have died at Bruche and to have been buried at Winwick. He was committed to the Tower in 1694 for adhering to the king's enemies, and to Chester castle in 1696 on a like charge. He denied his guilt in both instances, and in his will expressed a wish that his innocency might be commemorated on a brass in the church where he was buried. He was a friend of Dr. Byrom's, who visited him at Lyme in 1728. He settled his estates on his four nephews. (Beamont's pedigree.) The last portrait in this hall is that of Thomas Legh, who is dressed in an Albanian costume. He rests one arm on his horse's neck, and his favourite Mameluke servant sits at his feet. Mr. Thomas Legh was an enterprising traveller, and published a quarto voulme in 1816 entitled *Narrative of a Journey in Egypt and the Country beyond the Cataracts.* He was one amongst the earliest explorers of Nubia, and one of a party who first rode through the "Written Valley," notwithstanding the hostility and prejudice of the populace. His interesting and exciting account of the dangerous descent made by himself and two other Europeans into the mummy pits at Amabdi near Manfalout on the Nile, under the escort of three Arabs, is scarcely to be surpassed. To him, also, the British public is to a great extent indebted for the discovery and acquisition of the celebrated frieze of the temple of Apollo at Phigalia, a cast of which adorns Lyme hall.

On a doorway which opens out of the drawing room on to the entrance hall, a full-length portrait of the Black Prince is painted, whilst opposite to him is another full-length painting of his father, Edward III. They are fac-similes of the two engraved portraits in Gregson's *Lancashire Fragments*, but whether taken from them, or *vice versa*, does not appear.

On passing down a flight of steps to the left of the entrance hall, the domestic chapel is reached, which is fitted up in the debased Jacobean style. The only objects of antiquarian interest consist of a square-headed font, said to have been brought from

Bradley, on the faces of which four coats of arms are carved; and the fragments of two crosses, ornamented with chain tracery, which formerly stood in a double-socketed base above Disley, and known as the "Jordan Law Crosses." The socket-stone was taken to Stockport rectory and converted into a grindstone when the crosses were removed to Lyme hall. They formed part of a singular chain of double "law" or boundary stones that crossed the moorlands from nigh Prestbury to Mellor. Jordan Law cross and the "Borestones," or Bowstones, are made mention of in the 15th century *Latin MS.* of Sir Peter Legh:

"Beginning at a bridge called Chorlshede brigge, and so descending the highway as far as a stone crosse called Jordan lawe crosse, and so following the road from the said cross to a certain pit called Wolfe putte, and so as far as the Borestones," &c., &c. From the same *MS.* it appears that "a square stone called the 'Whytebore' used to lie upon Shrigley moor."

On returning from the chapel to the entrance hall, another short flight of steps leads into the drawing room, in the passage to which hangs a portrait of Mary Queen of Scots.

The drawing room is a lofty and handsome apartment, about forty feet square, and is in every respect a good specimen of an Elizabethan interior. The mantelpiece is a fine piece of renaissance work, the entablature being supported by Ionic columns, and the pediment by Caryatides. The royal arms of Elizabeth occupy the central compartment.

The lower half of the walls are of panelled oak, wrought out into intersecting arches. The upper half is plain, and hung round with family portraits, &c. A deeply-recessed bay window, its separate compartments filled in with stained glass representing the heraldic insignia of the knights of the garter (said to be the handsomest decoration of its kind in England), gives additional beauty to the general *coup d'œil.*

The arms in one window compartment represent George Talbot earl of Shrewsbury, Sir H. Sidney, Thomas Percy earl of Northumberland, W. Stanley earl of Derby, H. Hastings earl of

Huntingdon, W. Somerset earl of Worcester, H. Radcliffe earl of Sussex, Thomas Cecil earl of Exeter; over which are the arms of Seymour quartering Vere.

In the other compartment are, H. Manners earl of Rutland, W. Paulett earl of Winchester, John Dudley earl of Warwick, Sir Rhys ap Thomas, Edward Clinton earl of Lincoln, H. Clifford earl of Cumberland, Francis Russel earl of Bedford, and Walter Devereux earl of Hereford.

In the central compartment the royal arms of England with lion and unicorn for supporters are displayed, thus showing that the window is Jacobean in its origin. Beneath this there is a miniature portrait of Sir P. Legh, the provost marshall, &c., represented as an aged man with white hair and beard, and on each side of it the escutcheon of augmentation. Beneath these, and disposed side by side, are the Haydock and Boydell coats. Below these the engrailed cross of Legh with inescutcheon; and by its side the coat of Croft of Dalton. Still lower down the quartered coats of Legh of Lyme and of Calveley are depicted. The portraits of James I., Charles I., Charles II., James II., Queen Ann, and Mary of Scotland, are painted on the oaken panels beneath this oriel window.

Three other windows facing north are each enriched with armorial shields. In that one furthest removed from the bay, there are three shields of arms, viz.: First, Molineux with sixteen quarters, and badge of baronetcy; second, Legh impaling Chicheley; and third, Egerton with eight quarters. Beneath these is a shield bearing a crest, viz., on a wreath, a hand grasping a phean sable, for Holt of Grislehurst.

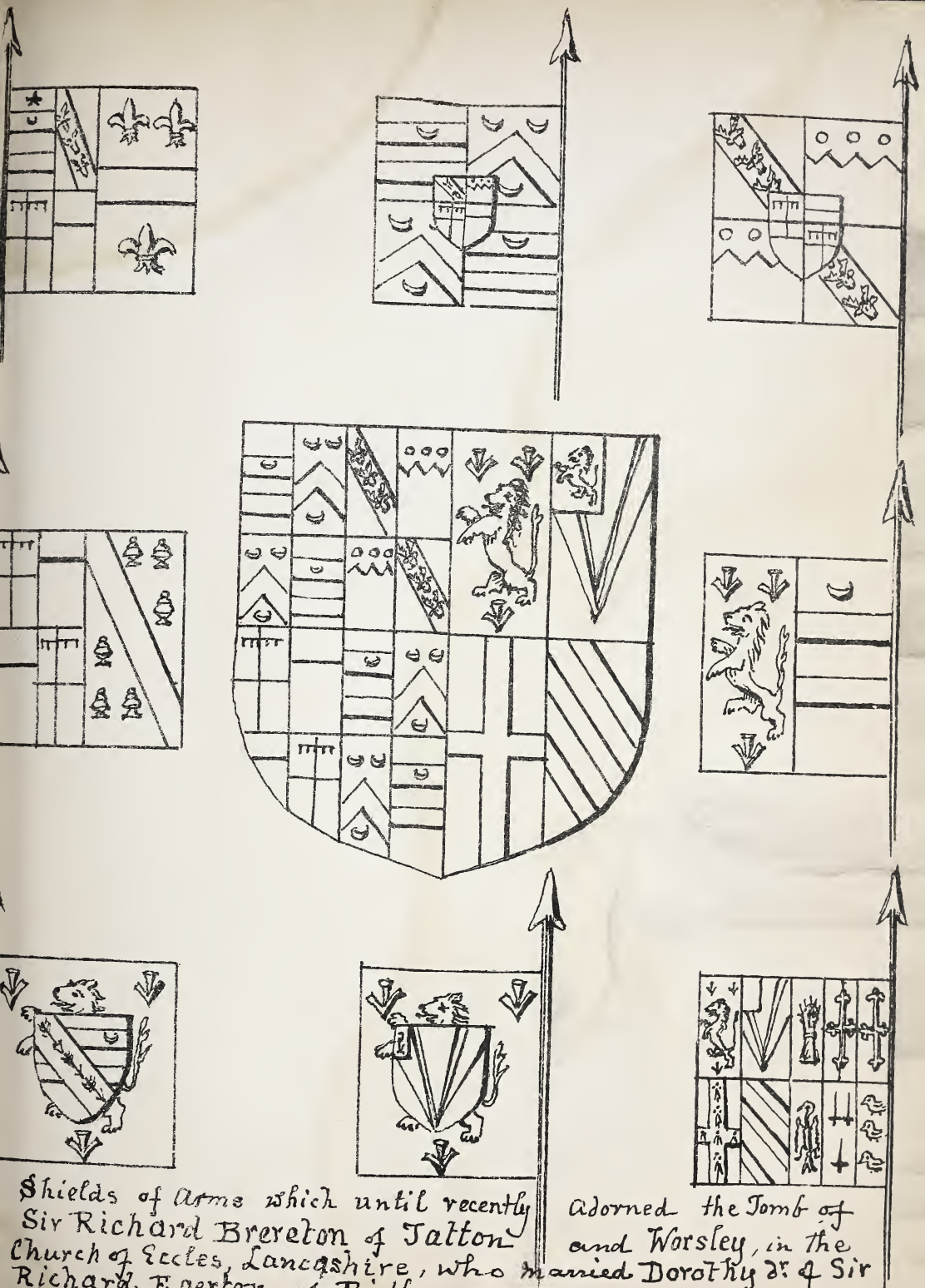
The coat armour of Richard Legh is the same as that already described on the lead spout, viz., Adlington differenced with a crescent. Richard Legh, the heir to his uncle Francis Legh, was born in 1634. He represented Cheshire in Parliament from 1656 to 1659, Sir George Booth being his first colleague, and John Bradshaw, the regicide, his second. He died in 1797, and was buried at Winwick. (Beamont's pedigree.)

The Molyneux coat has reference to the marriage of Margaret daughter of Sir Richard Molyneux, with Sir Peter Legh. The Egerton coat represents the marriage of Sir Peter Legh, some time about 1615, with Dorothy, daughter of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, and widow of Richard Brereton of Tatton. A full length portrait of this lady is preserved in one of the bedrooms at Lyme, as is also that of Margaret, the first wife of Sir Peter Legh, and daughter of Sir Gilbert Gerrard, master of the rolls, circa 1586. The arms and name of Egerton are painted on the first picture. She survived her husband, and died in 1639. Some mention of her has already been made (*vide* Legh of Adlington, p. 98); and of her desire to be buried with her first husband at Eccles church, in Lancashire. In 1856, and even later, this stately tomb was in its original entirety, and surrounded with an iron railing, from the four corners of which, and from the four centres, armorial shields were displayed on small metal flags. This railing was recently removed during the time of the church restoration. The effigies of herself and first husband, and of a swaddled infant, repose on an altar tomb, which is encircled with the following inscription :

" Hic jacent corpora Ricardi Brereton de Tatton et Worksley Armigeri, et Dorothæ uxoris ejus filiæ Ricardi Eggerton de Ridley militis, et Ricardi filii eorum qui quidem Ricardus obiit 17 die Decembris Anno Domini 1598, et dicta Dorothea obiit quarto die Aprilis Anno Domini 1639, et dictus Ricardus filius eorum qui infans obiit Anno Domini 1575, et dicta Dorothea hoc monumentum fieri fecit 1600."

A large shield stands at the head of the tomb, on which the arms of Brereton of Tatton are impaled with those of Egerton of Ridley. (See drawing.) Brereton has four quarters, and each quarter is quarterly. First and fourth, Brereton quarters Malpas; second, Stanley of Weaver quarters Lathom ; third, Massey of Tatton quarters the older coat of Massey.

The Egerton shield is also quarterly of four, viz,, Egerton of Ridley, Basset of Blore, Beke, and argent three bends gules. On



Shields of Arms which until recently adorned the Tomb of Sir Richard Brereton of Tatton and Worsley, in the Church of Eccles, Lancashire, who married Dorothy dr. of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley.

the first flag Brereton of Tatton quarterly with Stanley and Massey, impaled Leicester of Nether Tabley. On the second flag Brereton and Malpas were displayed quarterly, and in the centre an escutcheon of pretence with the arms of Stanley, Lathom, and Massey old and new, blazoned quarterly. The third flag displayed Stanley of Weaver quarterly with Lathom, over all an escutcheon of pretence bearing the new and old coat armour of Massey of Tatton. The fourth flag bore Massey of Tatton old and new coats quarterly, impaling Butler of Bewsey. On the fifth flag, Egerton impaled Mainwaring of Ightfield, Salop. On the sixth flag were the arms of Egerton and an inescutcheon bearing Done of Oulton, third son of Done of Utkinton. On the seventh were the Egerton arms and an inescutcheon bearing Basset of Blore. The eighth flag bore the quartered coat of Egerton impaling Grosvenor of Eaton, with six quarters.

Four of the shields on these metal flags belonged to the Brereton directly or indirectly, and four to the Egertons of Egerton and Ridley. Of the Brereton quarterings the brief explanation is as follows:

Worsley came by marriage of Sir John Massey of Tatton with Alice sister and heir of Sir Geoffrey Worsley of Worsley, Lancashire. (Edward III.) Sir Geoffrey Massey of Tatton married Isabel the daughter of Sir John Butler of Bewsey. Sir Geoffrey left Joan his daughter and heiress, who married Sir William Stanley of Weever. Sir William again left a daughter and heiress who married Sir Richard Brereton, younger son of Sir Randle Brereton of Malpas.

Sir Geoffrey Brereton of Tatton, in 1551, married Alice, daughter of Sir Piers Leicester of Nether Tabley. His son by this marriage, Richard Brereton of Tatton, married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley. Their son died in infancy (*vide* effigy on tomb), when the estates were settled on Sir Thomas Egerton, lord keeper, from whom the dukes of Bridgewater derive.

The quarterings on the Egerton shields are explained as follows :

Philip Egerton of Egerton (*p.m.* 13° Edward IV.) married Margery daughter of William Mainwaring of Ightfield.

John Egerton of Egerton (*p.m.* 1° Richard III.) married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Henry Done of Oulton.

Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, who died in or about 1528, married the daughter and heiress of Ralph Basset of Blore. His son, Sir Richard Egerton, who died in 1579, married Margaret, daughter of Sir Richard Grosvenor of Eaton, and widow of Thomas Legh of Adlington. Their daughter Dorothy married first, Sir Richard Brereton of Tatton, and second Sir Peter Legh of Lyme.

On the centre window in the drawing room at Lyme, are four shields of arms quartered, and the crest of Legh of Lyme. Only the fourth coat is a family cognizance. It is a shield of Legh with ten quarters, viz., Legh of Adlington, Legh of Baggiley, Corona of Adlington, Legh of Lyme, Butler, Savage of Clifton, on which the Legh inescutcheon is placed, Haydock, Boydell of Poulcroft, Ashton, and Croft.

In the window to the right there is a coat of arms with twenty-four quarterings, belonging to Gerard of Bromley. Sir Peter Legh, the provost marshall, married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Gerard of Bryn, in 1518. She lived to an advanced age. Her portrait is preserved in the long gallery at Lyme, taken in her 90th year. She holds in her arms Ann, her great grandchild, then an infant, and afterwards wife of Richard Bold of Bold. Below this is another shield of ten quarters, of Venables baron of Kinderton, placed presumably to set forth the marriage of Sir Peter Legh with Catherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Venables of Kinderton.

A hawk or, with wings expanded on a field argent, and the engrailed cross of Legh with crest, completes this series of armorial bearings.

Within a glass case are preserved the gloves said to have been

worn by Charles I. on the scaffold, and his dagger, marked "Carolus" on the blade.

Several good portraits hang on the walls, amongst which may be mentioned Mrs. Legh, Lady Masters, Ashburnham of Ashburnham (qy Vandyke), Lord Derby, and his countess the Lady Tremouille, and Sir John Ogle.

The "stag parlour" is an ante-room between the drawing and dining rooms, so called because the history of a stag hunt is displayed in twelve medallions on the frieze and cornice. The stag is first represented feeding, then running through the forest, next the dogs are questing, then the stag is at lair, afterwards he is breaking cover, then at bay, then being run down, then pulled down by the hounds, then the *coup de grace*, then he is seen trussed up ready to bear away, and lastly the dogs are being beaten off. The chairs in this room are covered with tapestry work, said to be portions of the cloak worn by King Charles at the time of his beheadment.

The royal arms of England, France, Scotland, and Ireland, with garter and motto of the time of James I., are placed over the mantelpiece. The quartered arms of Legh of Lyme occupy the centre panel of the mantelpiece, and the side ones are occupied with the crest and inescutcheon. An interesting bas-relief representing Lyme hall in the Jacobean period is fixed over this mantelpiece.

The dining room was remodelled by Wyatt. The walls are panelled, and adorned with scrolls in high relief which run round as a frieze. The panels are ccupied with portraits. An exquisitely-wrought group by Grindling Gibbons, consisting of fish, fishing tackle, and wild fowl, is fixed over the mantelpiece.

The following portraits hang round this room: 1, Charles I., by Vandyke. 2, Ann, eldest daughter of lord-keeper Coventry, eminent for her zealous and faithful services to the king in his troubles; the painting is by Housman. She was married, first, to Sir William Saville of Yorkshire, and was by him mother of the last marquis of Halifax of that name. She married after-

wards Sir Thomas Chicheley, knight. 3, Richard Legh, baron of Newton, and his wife, daughter of the above-named Sir Thomas Chicheley. Sir Richard is habited in a buff coat. His arms have already been described. He was born in 1634, and represented Cheshire in 1656–59. 4, Peter Legh and his wife Frances Legh of Bruche, sister and heir to her brother. Peter Legh was born in 1669. In 1694 he was committed to the Tower on a charge of high treason for adhering to the king's enemies. In 1696 he was committed to Chester on a like charge. (*Vide* Jacobite trials in Manchester.) On both occasions he protested that he was wrongly accused and dealt with; and when he died in 1744, he ordered a plain brass to be erected over his remains at Winwick to express his innocency of the wicked conspiracy by false witnesses, imprisonments, and trials in 1694 and 1696, and that he died a member of the Church of England, and looked on it as the best and purest of churches, which he hoped might continue for ever. In 1709 Peter Legh founded Trinity church in Warrington for the benefit of his tenants and others. (W. Beamont, Esq.). 5, A portrait of Peter Legh who was born in 1717 and died in 1792, and was buried at Disley. He was a friend of Dr. Byrom at Cambridge in 1729; and he gave his voice against the rising of the Cheshire men in the rebellion of 1745. (Beamont.) There are five more portraits, but their authenticity is doubtful.

In the ante-room leading from the dining room into the library there is a portrait of Admiral Francis Legh. The walls of this room are hung with tapestry representing the rape of Europa.

In the library, designed and executed by Wyatt, is a portrait of Richard Sherlock, D.D., who was born at Oxton in Cheshire in 1613, and was educated at Magdalene College, Oxford, and at Trinity College, Dublin. He wrote *The Principles of the Christian Religion, The Catechism Paraphrazed, Mercurius Christianus,* &c., and died in 1689.

On the walls of the grand staircase there are two portraits by Beechy representing George IV. when prince of Wales, and

his brother the duke of York. Another painting represents the death of the red deer, and the old huntsman Bullock. Another represents John Watson with a knife in his hand, a dead stag at his feet, and a dog by his side. It is inscribed as follows :

"John Watson, who in the 26th year of his age, viz., in 1674, commenced keeper at Lyme Park, in which service he continued 70 years, and in 1750, in the one hundred and second year of his age, hunted a buck, a chace near six hours long, at which hunting one gentleman was present whose ancestors he had hunted with for 4 generations before, he being the 5th generation he had hunted with."

Two busts by Gatley, the sculptor of Kerridge, of Mr. Thomas Legh and of his second wife, Maud Lowther, are placed on this staircase.

The most noticeable objects in the saloon are six groups of flowers, fruit, musical instruments, &c., which depend from the panelled walls, whilst two similar groups are arranged over the doors, all by Grindling Gibbons.

Casts of the Phigalian marbles are fixed against the walls of the quadrangular gallery in the upper story of Lyme hall. The originals are in the British Museum, and were brought to England by Mr. Thomas Legh. They are antique friezes representing contests between the Centaurs and Lapithæ, and the Greeks and Amazons, which formerly ornamented the temple of Apollo Epicurus at Phigalia in Arcadia.

A room 119 feet long leads from off this gallery, and is very characteristic of 16th and 17th century houses. The mantelpiece is a fine specimen of renaissance work, and is of the debased Doric order, rising from floor to ceiling. The walls are of panelled oak, wrought into flat pilasters, with interlacing arches and studs. A bedstead, covered with faded tapestry stands in this room, said to have been used by Mary Queen of Scots when she slept at Lyme on her way from Chatsworth with Lady Cavendish. Lord Byron's study chairs are also here. Amongst the portraits is one of a herald said to be Mercury Patten. Another of an ancient lady

holding a child in her arms, and inscribed "Sir Piers' lady ætatis suæ 90, A.D. 1595." Beneath the portraiture of the child, "ætatis suæ Anno primo after marryed to Bold." Another portrait is that of Lady Masters, and of Admiral Francis Legh, both in duplicate. Then there is one of the Rev. Thomas Legh dated 1626, and marked third son of Sir Peter Legh. Another represents Dr. John Hewitt, son of Thomas Hewitt of Eccles, and chaplain to king Charles I. For his loyalty to Charles II. he was beheaded on Tower hill on the 8th June, 1658. He married the lady Mary Bertie, daughter of Robert earl Lindsay. There is also a portrait of the Rev. John Dod, called the Decalogist, who was born in Cheshire and died in 1645, when 90 years old. In his hand he holds a scroll which is inscribed "Dod on the commandments." "Dr. Legh's lady, Hugh Calveley's daughter," is represented in another picture. Two portraits of Henry VIII. and Henry IV. complete the series.

The "knights' room" is thoroughly Elizabethan. The lower half is panelled oak, and the upper half is covered with renaissance tracery, surmounted with a deep cornice, and over all an elaborate ceiling. The mantelpiece rises the whole height of the room, and is ornamented with fluted Doric columns, &c. The quartered coat of Gerard of Etwall impaling that of Radcliffe with six quarters, occupies the central compartment. The crests of Gerard and Radcliffe surmount their respective arms, viz., on a helmet two wings expanded sable; and on a helmet a bull's head erased. To the side of the Gerard crest is a monkey, and to the side of the Radcliffe crest a lion's jamb erect and erased ermine, holding a lure gules garnished and lined or and tasseled argent. Beneath is the motto "Bono vice malum." Gerard quarters Ince, and Radcliffe quarters Plessington, Baldwin, Lawrence, Washington, and Butler of Rowcroft. Gerard of Etwall had two crests, viz., two wings expanded sable, and a lion's jamb erect and erased ermine as above described. The monkey statant proper collared and chained is the crest of the Fitzgeralds, dukes of Leinster.

On another renaissance mantelpiece, in the adjoining room, are the arms of Hoghton impaling Ashton, with bull's head for crest.

There are three portraits in the room known as the "state bed room," viz., that of Sir Richard Legh, baron of Newton, by Sir Peter Lely; that of Sir R. C. Gerard of Grousewood near Newton; and a full-length portrait of "Sir P. Legh's first lady that was Lord Gerard of Bromley's daughter master of the rolls," in full Elizabethan costume.

The only other room in Lyme hall needing special mention is known as the "stone parlour," which also contains a handsome renaissance mantelpiece with Corinthian columns and capitals, and holding in its central compartment the coat of Molineux, with sixteen quarterings, with the peacock's tail issuing out of a cap of maintenance for crest. Here is a portrait of "Grimshaw the bailiff," and at his feet a fine specimen of the well-known breed of Lyme mastiff dogs.

LEGH OF RIDGE.

This family derives from John Legh, younger brother of Sir Peter Legh the first of Lyme. It is the more necessary to insist on this point, as in many genealogical charts he is styled brother to Sir Peter Legh the second of Lyme. A reference to the indictment of Maud Norley (see Legh of Adlington, p. 84) shows that John Legh was her younger and apparently favourite son. Again, in the dispute that arose between Robert Legh and his kinsmen, it is expressly stated that Peter and John Legh were brothers. (p. 86.)

John Legh is styled by Bostock (Cheshire collections *Harleian MSS.*) the son of Peter Legh of Rudge, by Cecily, daughter and heiress of John de l'Haghe. In Mr. Wood's 16th century *Cheshire MS.* he is said to be the issue of Sir P. Legh the first of Lyme, and Cecily, daughter and heiress of John de l'Haghe of Derbyshire. Dugdale calls him the grandson of Sir Peter Legh the first of Lyme, who, according to the same authority, was twice married, first to Cecily Hagh, and second to Margaret Danyers.

He married Alice, daughter and heiress of Thomas Alcocke of Ridge in Sutton, and hence became known as Legh of Ridge; and was sometimes known as John de Macclesfield. In token of juniority he differenced the Norley arms with a mullet sable, and in this respect only do they differ from the coat armour of Legh of Lyme. Alice died sometime before the year 1430, when, as is generally understood, John Legh married Catherine Kingsley. John de Kingsley was living in 1412, and was one of the signatories to a deed in which Sir Robert Legh of Adlington relinquished his claim to Pulford in favour of Sir Thomas Grosvenor; whilst Adam de Kingsley's name occurs prominently in the indictment already referred to. David Browne, formerly of Macclesfield, states that Catherine was a daughter of John Kingsley. The fragmentary inscription

Date p ēialtz Roger leigh et Elizabeth vxis sue qui quidē
Rogerus obiit vlt̄o die Nouembris Ao dn̄i mo cccc lxxxiiio et ipa Elizabeth vxor
obiit 8o die Octobris Ao dn̄i mo cccc lxxxxiiio quor ēialtz propicietur deꝰ

once over a window in Bosley church, and copied by Dugdale *(Church Notes)* shows that Catherine Kingsley was wife of John Legh in 1430:

"In another window three crosses engrailed, the first ermine in a field vert marked with an annulet for Kingsley: the next argent in a field gules with a mullet for Legh of Macclesfield: the last ermine in a field gules for Macclesfield. Underneath the following, Joh'is Regge ..... et fact' fuit 1430, Katherine ux'is suæ tunc dn' ....."

The word "tunc" makes it certain that Catherine was at that time wife of John Legh, and as such his second wife, by whom he had no issue.

The exact date of John Legh's death is uncertain, but he was escheator of Cheshire in 1453, as the public records show: "John Legh de l'Ridge was escheator of Cheshire in the 31st year of Henry 6" (Leicester), at which time he must have been upwards of eighty years of age.

By Alice, his first wife, he had issue Roger Legh, who married Helen, daughter of Sir Robert Legh of Adlington, by whom he had a son called Roger. Roger Legh died in 1448, so that at the death of John Legh, Ridge devolved on his grandson, Roger Legh, who married Elizabeth, a daughter of Sutton of Sutton, by whom he had issue, and from whom the Leghs of Ridge descend, as also the family of Lord Leigh of Stoneleigh, in Warwickshire. Roger Legh died in 1506, and his wife in 1489. Both were buried at Macclesfield church, where the larger portion of their monumental brass may yet be seen, inscribed as follows:

Orate p aiabz Rogeri legh et Elizabeth vxis sue qui quidm Rogerus obiit uio die Nouembris A° dm m° v° vio Elizabeth vero obiit v° die Octobris A° dm mccccclxxxix° quor aiabz ppicietur de

The effigies of Roger Legh and his sons, all kneeling, have been removed, but those of his wife and her six daughters remain. Issuing from her mouth is a scroll bearing the prayer

from the litany, "A dampnacione perpetua libera nos Domine." In the space between the two sets of kneeling suppliants is a representation of the Pope, triply crowned, in the attitude of asking a pardon from Christ, who is represented displaying the nail wounds in both hands. Beneath this pictorial design is the following: "The pardon for saying of five pater nosters and five aves and a cred is twenty-six thousand yeres and twenty-six dayes of pardon." (See illustration.)

Common though the sale of indulgences was about this time, and much as the minds of thinking people were scandalised by the indiscriminate traffic in them, this Legh pardon or indulgence was probably thought then, and has certainly been considered since, as having all but surpassed any of its predecessors in laxity and amplitude, and as having served to help forward the reformation in England. In further illustration of the subject, the following form of indulgence, or pardon, may not be uninteresting:

"May our Lord Jesus Christ have mercy upon you, and absolve you by the merits of his most holy passion. And I, by his authority, that of his blessed apostles Peter and Paul, and of the most holy Pope, granted and committed to me, in these parts, do absolve you, first from all ecclesiastical censures, in whatever manner they have been incurred; then from all thy sins, trangressions, and excesses, howsoever enormous these may have been, even from such as are reserved for the cognisance of the Holy See, as far as the keys of the holy church extend. I remit to you all punishment which you deserve in purgatory on their account; and I restore you to the holy sacraments of the church, to the unity of the faithful, and to that innocence and purity which you possessed at baptism; so that, when you die, the gates of punishment shall be shut, and the gates of the paradise of delight shall be opened; and if you shall not die at present, this grace shall remain in full force when you are at the point of death. In the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost."

In yet further illustration of the supposed efficacy of these instruments, Tetzel, one of Pope Leo's principal agents, used to say that he would not exchange his privileges against those which St. Peter had in heaven, for he had saved more souls by his indulgences than the apostle had by his sermons; adding, whatever crime one may have committed, let him pay well and he will receive pardon.

Wincle Grange

Stands on the high ground overlooking Wincle village, in Prestbury parish. It is a Gothic house, built of stone by the abbot and monks of Combermere, apparently towards the close of the 14th century.

Combermere abbey was founded in 1143 by Hugh Malbank. In 1299 the monks of Combermere had a grange at Wincle valued at ten shillings yearly, the stock upon it being four times the value of the land. (Canon Raines, in Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*.) The existing building is not the original one. Wincle manor originally formed part of Hugh Malbank's territorial possessions. It is mentioned in the abbey charter, and also in the taxation of Pope Nicholas, as follows: "Item habet apud Wynkehull in dec. de Maclesfeld duas carucatas terræ et valet p. annum 10^{s}."

The grange at Wincle is again referred to in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of Henry VIII. as rendering 13s. 4d. annually. In 34° Henry VIII. Combermere abbey was granted to George Cotton, together with its dependencies, in which Wincle grange was included. It shortly afterwards formed part of the estate of John Legh of Ridge, as appears by his *post mortem* inquisition dated 22° Elizabeth. In his will, dated 1577, he granted to his eldest son John, then twenty-two years old, his manor house of Ridge, and all the demesne lands belonging to his mansion or dwelling house called Wincle grange, except five marks to his widow to be paid yearly out of Wincle grange. (Piccope's *Cheshire Wills*.)

Within a year or two of the restoration of Charles II., Peter Legh of Wincle grange well nigh got into trouble for his loyalty to the Stuart cause. A letter from Sir Thomas Stanley of Alderley, addressed to Mr. Croxton of Ravenscroft, dated 1658–9, and published in the Chester Historic Society's transactions, shows how thorough a royalist he was:

"Good Sir, Att our last month's meetinge att Prestbury, there was two informacions given in and taken uppon oathe before Coll: Bradshawe and myselfe against Mr. Peter Legh, of Wincle Grange, for words by him not longe agoe spoken, which are to this effect: that the late Lord Protector was dead and gone to the Devill: and that this Protector would not bee longe before hee dyed, and went to the Devill after him; and that it was better for a man to bee buried underground alive than to live under this present government. And then, discourseinge of the late election (*i.e.*, when Bradshawe was returned as knight of the shire), declared that Bradshawe was more fitt to stande betwixt a paire of Plowe stilts, than to sitt in the Parliament house: or wordes very neare to this effect. Besides, he uttered some false and unbecominge expressions against my sonne Stanley in order to the election. Coll: Bradshawe and I hereupon granted forthe our warrant to apprehend and bringe him before us, or one of us, to answer such matters as were proved and objected against him, and did thereupon conceive he was not Bayleable; and soe resolved that before whether of us two he appeared to send him unto you to be further dealt with, as you should see cause, or think good. This morneinge Mr. Legh appeared before mee of his owne accorde, and having neither constables nor other trustie persons readie by whom safely to convaye him to you, have adventured to send for the Bearers your Soldiers, and given them strict charge safely to bring him before you. Coll: Bradshawe hath the Informacions (which are as above I have related) to whom I will write, and desire they may bee speeded to you. The rest is to present you with my kindest love and service, and ever to remaine your very assured ffriend to love and serve you.

"Alderley 4° March 1658." "Thomas Stanley.

Wincle grange remained in the possession of the Legh family till the beginning of the 18th century. Afterwards part of the copyhold estates held in connection with this property were successively in the possession of John Armitt of Nettlebeds, in Wincle, yeoman, and his son John Armitt, and of William Trafford of Swythanley, and others, and were, in 1735, surrendered to Thomas Hollinshead of Ashenhurst, near Leek. It is presumed, and as regards Thomas Hollinshead it is certain, that Wincle grange, which is freehold, was held by these parties, or some of them, with such copyhold estates.

From Thomas Hollinshead these estates, including Wincle grange, with others in Staffordshire, descended to William Stanley of Nether Alderley, in the county of Chester, and to Francis Leigh of Cheadle, in the county of Stafford, his nephew, on his dying intestate.

The Cheshire and Staffordshire estates of Thomas Hollinshead were divided, and allotted (by deed of partition of 30th October, 1750) between the said William Stanley and Francis Leigh, Wincle grange and other estates being allotted to William Stanley, who died in 1752, and thereupon his eldest son, Thomas Stanley, became entitled to the estates. The last-named Thomas Stanley died without issue in 1765, and by will gave to his brother Lawrence his estates, &c.

Lawrence Stanley died without issue in 1772, when his estates descended to his sister and heiress-at-law, Frances, wife of the Rev. George Salt, by whom they were conveyed in 1788 to Michael Daintry, of North Rode, in the county of Chester. They remained in the possession of this family till 1850, when Wincle grange was sold to William Brocklehurst, banker, of Macclesfield and Swythamley, from whom they descend to his nephew Philip Brocklehurst, the present owner.[16]

Wincle grange is an interesting specimen of domestic ecclesiastical architecture, the details of which show that it was built

[16] For information concerning the tenure of Wincle grange subsequently to its relinquishment by the Leghs of Ridge I am indebted to J. Challiner, Esq., of Leek.

at a time when the Decorated was giving way to the Perpendicular Gothic style. It is distant about seven miles from Leek, quite on the Staffordshire border of Cheshire, and stands on the high and once barren moorlands that overlook the "Roches." The external appearance of the grange at the present time is not materially changed from its original design. The walls are of considerable thickness, and are pierced with ten square-headed windows. The house is two-storied. The window tracery, the mouldings, and the embattled ornamentations indicate the date to be sometime between the years 1380 and 1420. (See plate.)

Wincle Grange, Cheshire.

MACCLESFIELD.

The leading antiquarian and historic features connected with the town of Macclesfield have already received such ample treatment from the pens of Ormerod, Lyson, and Corrie, that, in order to save needless repetition, mention will here be made only of such facts and minor events as have hitherto escaped notice, or been cursorily dismissed.

There is a tradition to the effect that a castle once existed in Macclesfield, and this belief has been strengthened by stray notices in books. The investigation, conducted exhaustively, will show that a stately dwelling of a half-castellated kind once existed on the brow of the hill between the church and Parsonage green, to the left of Mill street. Some remnants of this house are yet in existence, though of a very fragmentary kind. These consist (1) of a solid stone wall which stretches a considerable distance; (2) of a square-headed window, with perpendicular tracery; (3) a very mutilated pointed arch which once formed a doorway; (4) a buttress with a perpendicular string course; and (5) a stone groined gateway. These remains afford a proximate date, as they represent a late period of Perpendicular Gothic architecture, such as prevailed in the reign of Richard III., who is known to have displayed skill and taste of no ordinary kind in Gothic architecture. The bosses of the groined roof of the gateway are large, and one of them bears a double-flowered rose for ornament. The arches are depressed, and the bosses are many and bulky. So far as can be ascertained, the dimensions of the outer walls were forty yards long, by thirty-six yards wide. The square-headed window is fixed above the gateway, and on a third story. The arch in the wall, and the string course, both display the shallow cavette which is so characteristic of Perpendicular architecture.

Camden, in his *Britannia*, says, "there are still some remains of the mansion of Henry Stafford, the great Duke of Buckingham,

who lived here in great state and hospitality." Lyson *(History of Cheshire)* also says that in a street called Back Wallgate are some small remains of a mansion of the Duke of Buckingham, and he adds that the name of the Duke of Buckingham is not to be met with in any record of Macclesfield. The building is spoken of in Smith's *Cheshire* as a huge place, all of stone, in manner of a castle, which belonged to the Duke of Buckingham, but is now gone to decay. Webb, writing in 1672, says, "in y^e^ towne are yet some ruines of y^e^ auncient manor house of the renowned Duke of Buckingham, who, as report goeth, kept there his princely residence about the time of King Edward the fourth, of whose great hospitality there, much by tradition is reported." Dr. Ormerod copies Webb's words.

Dugdale, in his *Baronage*, traces the family descent of the Staffords from the Conquest. He also gives lists of all the castles, manors, and estates, of which the various members of this family died seized. It is remarkable that this particular manor house in Macclesfield is made no mention of by so accurate a chronicler as Dugdale. The principal estates of the Staffords were in Staffordshire, Wales, Kent, and the southern English counties. No mention is made of this Cheshire manor by any chronicler of events, until the time of Duke Henry's grandson, although there is every reason for thinking and saying that the Macclesfield manor was possessed by grandfather, father, and grandson.

The beheadment of the grandfather in Salisbury market-place, in 1483, is a familiar history. He was betrayed by an old servant, Banister, who was instigated to this treachery by a promised reward of 1000*l.*, not one farthing of which did he ever receive from Richard III., who wisely and well said that "he who would be untrue to so good a master would be false to all other." (Stowe's *Chronicle.*)

The eldest son and heir succeeded to the dukedom of Buckingham, and shared his father's fate in 1521, after having been tried on various charges, and having had sentence of death pronounced upon him by the Duke of Norfolk.

His son, Henry, was restored in blood, but not to his honours and lands, by act of parliament two years after his father's death. Nevertheless, the king (Henry VIII.) of his special grace, granted to him the manors of Norton-in-the-Moors, Tyllington, Cyton, Church Cyton, Wood Cyton, Dorlaston Forbrigge, Bradwalle, Dodyngton, Blyminchull, Holdych near Newcastle, Centynshull and Barlaston in Staffordshire, with the advowsons of these churches; also manors, tenements, and rents of Menlefield and Crystellon, in Cheshire, with the advowsons of the churches thereunto belonging, &c., &c., all of which were parcels of the possessions of the before-specified Edward duke of Buckingham attainted.

Here, for the first time, is any mention made of Cheshire manors belonging to the Dukes of Buckingham, *i.e.*, forty years after the death of Henry Stafford, the great duke of Buckingham, who, by tradition, built the Macclesfield manor house, the ruins of which correspond, in architectural style, to the day in which he lived. That Macclesfield and Menlefield are the same is undoubted, as the spelling in old deeds and writings is very variable.

Notwithstanding this singular lack of documentary evidence concerning the abode of this family of Stafford in Cheshire, there is every reason for thinking that several generations of them did reside in or near to Macclesfield.

In 11° Edward III., Ralph Stafford was justice of Cheshire. He is said by Dugdale to have died in 46° Edward III., and during his life to have had license to make castles of his manor houses of Stafford and Madeley.

In 35° Edward III., Henry Spurstowe held a messuage and five acres of land in Henbury, with appurtenances, of Richard Stafford, by military service.

In 9° Richard II., Hugh, earl of Stafford, son of the above Ralph, was sheriff of Cheshire, and deputed Sir Richard Venables of Kinderton to discharge the duties of the office. (Leicester.)

In the October of the same year, the king commanded Peter

de Legh, late *locum tenens* of Nigel de Loryng, to perform the office of supervisor and steward of the lordship and manor of Macclesfield, which office his relative the earl of Stafford had relinquished. (Public Records.)

In 10° Richard II., Robert Legh of Adlington was steward of the Hundred and forest of Macclesfield, by patent of the earl of Stafford ; and later on in the same year, when Robert Legh had summons to go to the war in France, a warrant was issued to him to deliver up certain offices which he then held as attorney of the earl of Stafford.

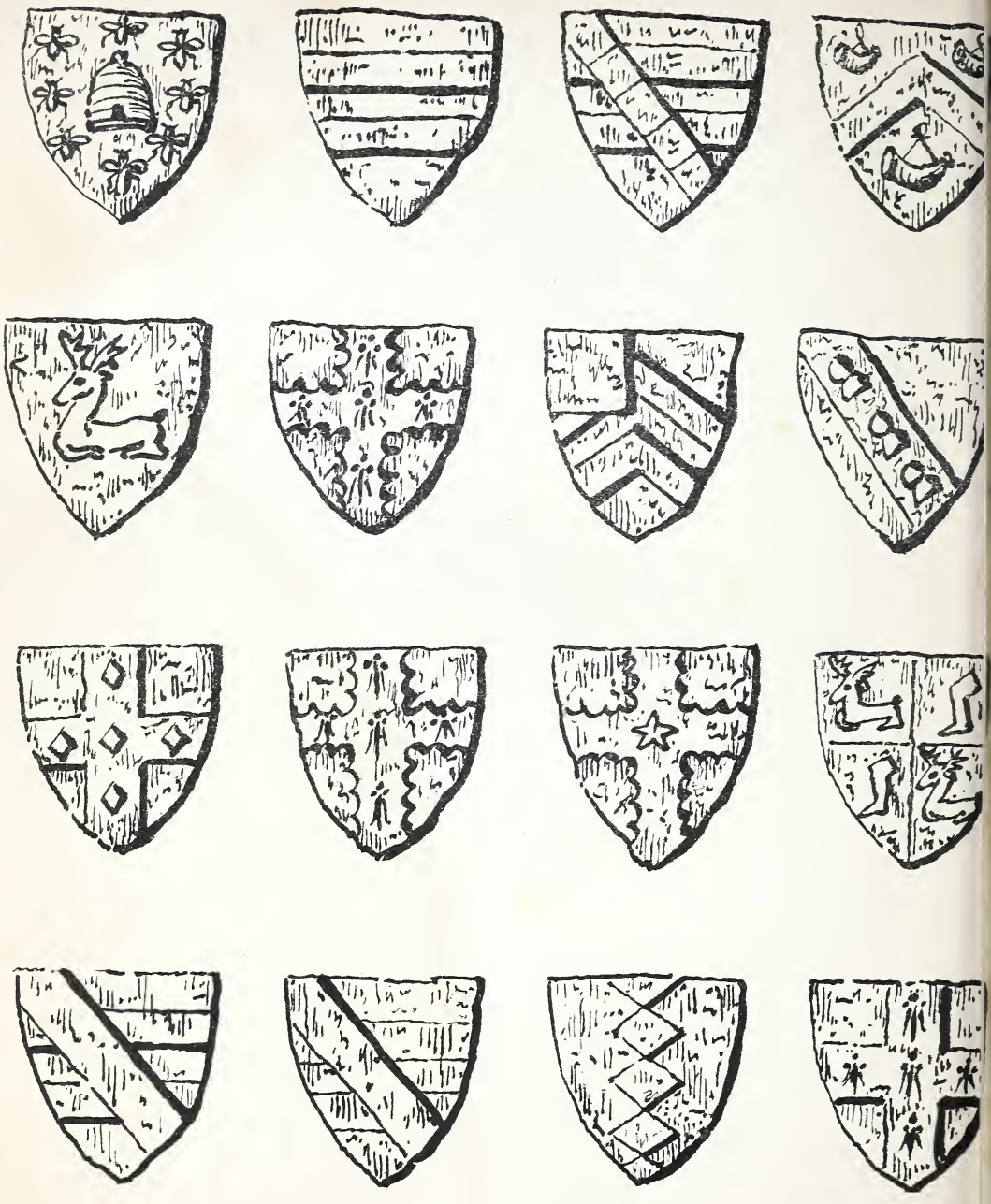
In Mr. R. Wood's *MS.* it is stated that Humfrey de Stafford junior was one of many present when Margaret Parr gave the manor of Barrow, in Cheshire, to John Savage and Maud (Swimmerton) his wife, in 7° Henry IV.

In the *Adlington MS.* there is a copy of indenture made by the right worshipful lord Humfrey, earl of Buckingham, Hereford, Stafford, Northampton, and Perche, and dated 20° Henry VI., 1442, in which it is agreed that Sir John Handforth of Handforth, knight, is to take the fues, profits, and reversions of the manor and lordship of Thornbury, in Gloucester, for 10*l.* a year during his lifetime.

In all these notices there is something of a very local nature, and the last transaction with Sir John Handforth is particularly so.

Hugh, earl of Stafford, is referred to as sheriff of Cheshire in 9° Richard II., whilst in 10° Richard II. Edmond his son was a bearer of offices in Cheshire, and is the person referred to in the warrant to Robert Legh. Now, his eldest son was Ralph Stafford, who was murdered in 8° Richard II., and it is very questionable whether he is not the Ralph de Macclesfield referred to in *Cheshire Histories* as exchanging his manor of Bosley with Humphrey afterwards Duke of Buckingham, to whom he was uncle.

It is remarkable that Leyland made no mention of this Macclesfield manor house in his *Itinerary* (temp. Henry VIII.), although he was well acquainted with the town, as the following



Shields of Arms on Macclesfield Church Tower.

F.R. 185

entry shows: "Maxwelle hard on the egge under the Maxwel foreste, and yet out of the foreste, xxiv myles north-west from Chestre towards Darbishire;" and again, "The hole foreste of Maxwel except it be a smaul spek is in Chestre."

I consider that the manor house was built by the Staffords some time between the years 1440 and 1460.

In the 23rd year of the reign of Henry VIII. the manor house passed by purchase from the Staffords to the Stanleys, as the following shows, *penes* Antrobus of Eaton: "Indenture made y^e^ fyrste daye of February in the three and twentyth yere of Henry VIII., between Edward earl of Derby on the one part, and Henry lord Stafford and Ursula his wife on the other part, for the sale of all that their messuage or chief mansion situate and lying in the towne of Macclesfyld in the county of Chester, with one croft of land lying on the backside of the said messuage, compassed and enclosed with a wall of stone conteyning one acre of grounde more or lesse as it lyeth within the said wall." The consideration money was two hundred and twenty marks of good and lawful English money, or about 160*l*

The lady Ursula here mentioned was daughter of that grand old countess of Salisbury who refused to lay her head on the block, averring that she was no traitor, and so had it removed whilst standing; or, as a contemporary chronicler said, "had it fetched off slovenly."

Explanation of the Shields Carved in Relief on the Tower of St. Michael's Church, Macclesfield. A.D. 1858.

The tower of Saint Michael's church, the mother church of Macclesfield, though really only an elder daughter of Prestbury, is rich in armorial shields, which are carved in relief on stone, on its north and west faces. There are sixteen in all, and as there can be no reasonable doubt that the possessors of these bearings were contributors towards the erection, it becomes an object of antiquarian and historic interest to rightly decipher them. (See illustration.)

1. On the north elevation, near to the battlement, there is a shield bearing a beehive within an orle of bees, and above it the figure of a man in armour. This is the armorial device of Roe, a family of distinction in Macclesfield in the time of Edward III., whose names are recorded amongst the free tenants of Macclesfield as late as 22° Elizabeth. The colours are, argent a hive, and bees flying thereabout sable.

2. Two shields bearing respectively two bars, and two bars differenced by a bend componée, are placed above the buttress on the north-west face of the tower. The first represents Venables baron of Kinderton, from whom the Leghs of Adlington descend, and the second is the coat of Legh of Adlington. The colours of the first are azure two bars argent, and of the second the same colours, but over all a bend componée or and gules. These two shields placed side by side signify that Venables and Legh are of one blood. For details *vide* pedigree of Legh of Adlington.

3. Two shields stand out beneath the battlements of the west tower front. One displays a chevron between three bugle horns strung, and the other a stag, or hart lodged. The first represents Sutton of Sutton, one of the nine subordinate foresters of Macclesfield forest. "Inq. *p.m.* 36 Ed. 3. J^no^ de Sutton holds a forestership in the forest of Macclesfield of y^e^ Earl of Chester. Adam son of Alan Sutton holds his lands of Sutton by charter of Hugh Earl of Chester, in name of forestership." The arms of the forest of Macclesfield are the same as those of Sutton, viz., argent a chevron between three blowing horns sable, founded on the coat proper to Delamere forest, which was argent one blowing horn sable.

Downes of Downes is represented by, sable a hart lodged argent. "Inq. *p.m.* 23° Rd. 3. Downes of Downes and Taxall holds y^e^ manor of Downes and Taxal, and a pasture called Oxencrofte, and advowson of Taxal Church, in chief of the King by military service, as of his manor of Macclesfield."

Two shields placed above a three-canopied niche bear respec-

tively two chevrons and a dexter canton, and a bend charged with three garbs. They stand for Sir Lawrence Fitton of Gawsworth and Agnes his wife, daughter of ..... Hesketh of Rufford, in the county of Lancaster. The colours are argent, two chevrons, and a dexter canton gules; and argent, a bend sable, charged with three garbs or. The Fittons of Gawsworth, after the marriage of Sir Thomas Fitton with Isabel, daughter and heiress of Thomas Orreby of Gawsworth, usually took the Orreby arms, viz., the chevron coat, by which they set forth their manorial possession. At other times they used their own proper bearings, viz., argent on a bend azure three garbs or, a dexter canton gules, which latter was added to the arms after the marriage of Isabel Orreby, and is in effect the Orreby canton. King, in the *Vale Royal*, calls the chevron coat "Gawsworth." The seal of Philip de Orreby was ermine, five chevronels, and a canton dexter charged with a lion statant; and of Thomas de Orreby ermine two chevrons and a canton ermine. Randle Holme *(Cheshire Church Notes, Harleian MSS.)* says that this marriage of Sir Thomas Fitton and Agnes Hesketh was once displayed in stained glass, on one of the windows of Gawsworth church. The difference between the arms of Fitton and those of Hesketh consists in the colour of the bend, and the absence of canton. This coat refers to a younger son of Fitton of Bollin, who settled in Lancashire at an early period, and with whose family the Hesketh of Rufford became allied through the marriage of Sir William Hesketh with a daughter and co-heiress of Richard Fitton, who died seized of half the manor of Rufford. Gregson *(Lancashire Fragments)* says that the Hesketh of Rufford having married one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Richard Fitton, thenceforward took the arms, which were argent on a bend sable three garbs or, and quartered them with their more ancient arms, argent an eagle displayed with two heads proper, and for crest a garb proper.

Robert de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, confirmed Great Harwood to Richard Fitton, who had a son Hugh, who had a son John, who

had a son Edmund, whose son John was lord of Great Harwood and half of Rufford (Henry I.), who had a son William, who had a son Richard, who died leaving three daughters and co-heiresses, Maude, Elizabeth, and Anabella.

The entire moiety of Rufford was granted to Maude, who married Sir William Hesketh of Hesketh and Beconshaw (4° Edward I., 1275), and by him had a son Thomas, who in his turn had two sons, Robert and John. John, afterwards Sir John Hesketh, became heir of Rufford in its entirety through marriage with Alice, daughter and sole heiress of Edmond Fitton, who was lord of the other moiety of Rufford. He thereupon assumed the arms of Fitton. (*Cuerdon MS.*, quoted by Baines.)

The two outer corbels of the three-canopied niche in the tower have each a shield carved on their face, whilst the centre corbel is adorned with leaf tracery only. The shield on the left bears a cross engrailed ermine, and that to the right a plain cross with five lozenges. The engrailed cross ermine represents Macclesfield. A family bearing this name, and holding important civil offices, was intimately connected with Macclesfield for six generations, which embraced a period of time dating from the reign of Henry III. down to the early part of the 15th century, when they died out through failure of heirs male. The following brief history seems to embrace all that is known of them.

The first of whom any record exists was named Gilbert de Macclesfield. He had a son, Roger, who married Isabella . . . . , as appears by the following agreement concerning forty acres of land in Bosley, between Robert de Montalt and Roger de Macclesfield and Isabella his wife :

"Finalis concordia (30° Henry III., 1246) inter Robert de Montealto et Roger de Macclesfeld, et Isabellam uxorem ejus deforcient̄ de 40 acris bosci in Bosley qui recognoverint predicta tota esse jus ipsius Rob. de Montealto arm." (*Cheshire MS.*, *penes* R. Wood.)

His son, Thomas de Macclesfield, succeeded. He was bailiff

of Macclesfield and lord of Staley, or Staveley, as appears by his *post mortem* inquisition, 1° Edward I., 1272. Peter Arderne assigned to him the custody of the manor and church of Gawsworth during the minority of the eldest son of Thomas de Orreby, as appears by the following:

"Universis, &c. Petrus de Arderne dominus de Aldford salutem, &c. Noveritis me dedisse et concesisse Thomæ de Macclesfeld tunc Baillivo de eadem custodiam manerii de Goseworth et omnium terrarum et tenementorum quæ fuerunt Thomæ filii Ricardi de Orreby quæ mihi ratione dictæ custodiæ aliquo in re accidere poterint cum advocacione ecclesiæ de Goseworth. Habendum usque ad legitimam ætatem filii et heredes dicti Thomæ de Orreby, &c. Test. Johis de Downes, Jnis de Sutton, Ws Gerrard, Joh. de Mottram, Jordan de Tydrington, Hs Davenport, Tho. de Ada Byron, Rics de Legh, et aliis. (Sine data.)" (From *Cheshire MS., penes* Wood.)

Jordan de Macclesfield succeeded, and was one of the justices in eyre for Cheshire. In 2° Edward III. he held ten acres of land in Hurdesfield, and in 30° of the same reign he held five messuages with appurtenances of the king as earl of Chester, by military service. *(Liber fœdorum militum infra com. cest.)* His paternity, and other details of interest concerning his family are shown in the following record:

"Rex, &c. Willmo de Thorp salutm̃ quia in recordo et processu qua Thomas Fyton et Isabella uxor ejus coram justiciar̃ Edwardi Ducis Cornubiæ et comitis Cestriæ per breve ipsius comitis versus Jordanum filium Thomæ de Macclesfeld et Thomam filium ejus et Elizabeth uxorem ejusdem Thomæ ad commincend̃ in ratores assiza mortis anteforis quæ inter ipsum Jordanum et prefates Thomam et Isabellam summonita fuit et capta de decem acris terræ in Stubbs juxta Gouseworthe. Error intervenit manifestus ad grave dammum ipsorum Jordani Thomæ filii ejus et Elizabeth, nos errorem illum, &c. Sine data." (*MS. penes* R. Wood.)

Jordan de Macclesfield made his will in 1356, and died the

same year. In it he made mention of his son John, of Millicent and Marion his daughters, and of Alice who was wife of his son John. He had a brother Robert de Macclesfield, and besides the parties named in the will, a son Thomas and two daughters, viz., Margaret, afterwards sister and co-heiress of John de Macclesfield (married to John de Moreton), and Agnes who was the wife of Sir John Davenport, 13° Edward II. In 1334 (7° Edward III.) an agreement was concluded between Jordan de Macclesfield and Richard the son of Gralam de Moreton, whereby John the son of Richard Moreton was to marry Margaret the daughter of Jordan de Macclesfield.

John de Macclesfield succeeded, and had three sons by his wife Alice, above-named, all of whom died without issue. He was one of the justices at Chester for hearing and determining pleas concerning the forests of Mara, Mondrem, and Wirrall, in 21° Edward III. He died in 1374 (47° Edward III.), when forty-three years of age, seized of all his father's lands, besides a parcel in Standlegh and Upton. Richard de Moreton (son of John de Moreton and Margaret), Eleana (daughter of Robert de Holt by Millicent), and Maria Gerberte, were declared his next heirs. Richard and Maria were declared to be of full age, and Eleana ten years of age.

With the exception of the name John de Macclesfield, priest, being appended to a deed in 1406 (7° Henry IV.), wherein Margaret wife of William Parr released to John Savage and Matilda his wife the manor of Barrow, all sight is lost of this family. They seem in fact to have become extinct shortly afterwards.

That the Macclesfields bore the arms assigned to them is proved on the authority of heraldic visitations formerly in possession of Robert Cooke, once clarancieux king of arms. In the same heraldic collection, Macclesfield borough was said to bear gules a cross ermine with a bordure gobonny gold and blue, which is the coat of Macclesfield differenced. These arms of the Macclesfields once figured in a window of Bosley church,

side by side with those of J. Legh of Ridge and Catherine Kingsley; and it has hence been erroneously inferred that they were compounded out of the two latter coats. The church window is dated 1430, at a time when the Macclesfields were either extinct or fast becoming so, and the inscription was to this effect: "Johīs Regge ..... et fact fuit 1430, Katherine ux'is suæ tunc dñ ....." What the missing letters implied there is now no means of knowing; but no proof exists that either John Legh of Ridge or his wife had possession at any time of Bosley manor. In 39° Edward III. (1375), William de Salisbury, lord of Hawarden, granted Bosley manor to John de Luce, for a term of years by a deed written in Norman French, and executed at London. (*MS. penes* Wood.) The *liber fœdorum militum* shows that Edward Stanley was lord of Bosley as early as the 16° and as late as the 37° Henry VI.; yet, in the face of such fact, it has been stated by one and another Cheshire historian that Ralph de Macclesfield, a descendant of John Legh of Ridge (who lived in the reign of Henry VI.) exchanged Bosley manor, together with his mansion and other lands in Macclesfield, with the duke of Buckingham.

Who was Ralph de Macclesfield? There is no such prefix to the name of any descendant of John Legh of Ridge; but it was a very usual one with the family of Stafford, earls of Stafford, and afterwards dukes of Buckingham. That they were officially connected with Cheshire generally, and with Macclesfield in particular, has been shown. For the present inquiry it will be well to be particular about dates. Humphrey Stafford, first duke of Buckingham, was killed in 38° Henry VI., at the battle of St. Albans, *i.e.*, within four or five years of the time when John Legh of Ridge was escheator of Cheshire. This fact disposes of the story of John Legh's descendants having sold possessions to Humphrey, styled by Webb the great duke of Buckingham. I believe that Ralph Stafford was lord of Macclesfield at the time of the transfer, which was made in the reign of Richard II., and not in that of Henry VI. or his successors. Ralph Stafford was

murdered in 8° Richard II., *i.e.* in 1384; or, in other words, nine years after the grant of Bosley manor to John de Luce. The very next year, viz., in 1385, Richard II. granted the manor and lordship of Macclesfield to John de Mohun, who was also styled John de Macclesfield. The circumstance of Ralph Stafford being killed in 1384, and of John de Mohun being appointed to the lordship of Macclesfield in 1385, is at the least a remarkable one, and is rendered the more so from the fact of both parties being directly or indirectly related to the king. Edmond earl of Stafford, the elder brother of Ralph, had married Ann, daughter of Thomas Woodstock, and hence the king's bounty might not unnaturally fall to Ralph Stafford in the form of a lordship in his royal borough within the forest. The patent rolls of Richard II. show that John de Mohun was lord of Macclesfield in 1385 and in 1391:

"Rex concessit consanguineæ suæ Johē de Mohun pro vita manerium dominium, et hundredum de Macclesfeld in comitatu Cestriæ cum diversis libertatibus et prerogativis."

It is quite within the pale of ordinary probability that Ralph Stafford should exchange lands with his nephew Humfrey, afterwards duke of Buckingham, and such I believe will prove to have been the case. But, in the absence of any direct proof to the contrary, it is safe to fall back on the recorded fact that in 1246 a member of the original family of Macclesfield claimed to have forty acres of land in Bosley; and this circumstance alone possibly served to explain the presence of the Macclesfield shield in the Bosley church window.

Having entered thus fully into details connected with the lordship of Macclesfield, I may conclude by saying that both Sir Peter Legh, the second of Lyme, and his uncle John were each styled "de Macclesfield" at different times. Sir Peter Legh was one of the attorneys of Lady Mohun. (*Vide* pedigree of Legh of Adlington.) In Bassano's pedigree of Legh of Adlington John Legh, the first of Ridge, is called "John de Macclesfield."

I have not been able to find an owner for the next shield,

which bears a plain Latin cross charged with five lozenges. The family of Upton of Upton, in Prestbury parish, bore argent a plain cross vert; and probably the addition of the lozenges was a mark of cadency by some member of this very little understood family.

Lower down, on the west face of the tower, there are two shields placed side by side, which bear a cross engrailed and a cross engrailed differenced with a mullet. They represent the families of Legh of Lyme and Legh of Ridge, both of which have been described elsewhere.

Below these shields, and on the same buttress, there is another, which bears quarterly, one and four a hart lodged, two and three a man's leg couped. It is a shield of arms compounded of Downes and Shrigley, and was used by Downes of Shrigley. The colours in all four quarters are sable and argent. This branch of the Downes family is derived from Downes of Downes, for whose pedigree *vide* Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*. William de Downes of Downes and Taxall purchased lands in Shrigley in 1313, and his second son had a grant of thirty acres of waste land in Shrigley in 1342. In 1345, as appears by the following extract from the patent rolls, 18° Edward III., the advowson of Taxall church and the manors of Downes and Taxall were confirmed to Edward Downes:

"The king confirmed to Edward Downes and divers others of the same name, and their heirs male the manors of Downes and Taxall in the forest of Macclesfield, together with the forester-ships belonging to these manors, as well as a pasture called Oxencrofte, in the forest, and the rents, services, &c., and the advowson of Taxal church in the forest."

The eldest son of this last-named Downes was the first who was styled Downes of Shrigley, in 1364. A descendant of this family, Roger Downes, was the founder of Shrigley church. The arms of Downes were sable, a hart lodged or at the leare, argent; crest a stag's head erased, as may be seen on an alabaster monument within the altar rails of St. Michael's church, Macclesfield. According to the ancient heraldic *MS.* already quoted, Shrigley

originally bore argent on a fess three sheep hooks sable, and also a demi-leg of a man from the calf downwards. This latter coat seems therefore to have particular reference to the official privilege of holding the king's stirrup when he came out hunting, claimed by Downes of Taxall. Shrigley of Beristall, a younger branch, bore sable a chevron between three half legs couped argent.

On the corresponding buttress there are two more shields, one of which bears a pale fusily, and the other an engrailed cross ermine. The first stands for Savage of Clifton. Sir John Savage was second husband of Margaret Danyers. He was descended from an ancient family living in Derbyshire. He died in 1386, leaving one son and two daughters. Sir John Savage, who succeeded, was half-brother to Sir Peter Legh, the second of Lyme. Both fought at Agincourt, where Sir John Savage was knighted and Sir Peter Legh badly wounded. Until 13° Henry V., the Savages bore argent six lioncels sable ; but after the above date Sir John Savage took for arms, argent a pale fusily sable, which was the coat of Margaret Danyers, inherited by her from her father, Sir Thomas Danyers, whose daughter and heiress she was. At the time of making this heraldic grant, Margaret also presented her son with the territorial possession of his grandfather, viz., Clifton, afterwards known as Rock Savage. The Savages continued to bear these arms till the reign of Elizabeth, when they once more reverted to the coat with six lioncels. Margaret Danyers' grant, in Norman French, is as follows :

"A tous ceux qu'cest ltres (lettres) venont ou orrent. Marguerite qu' feut le seur (q^{y} femme) de John Savage file et here a Thomas Danyers chev^{r} salut en Dieu ; sachey moi avoir doné et graunté et par c' este ma present charter confirmé a John Savage mon fils eisné et a ses heres a tous jours mes armes entierres qu' a moy descenderont apres le mort le dit Thomas mon pêre comme a sa fils et heres. Au tenir et porter les dites armes om (avec) tour lours appurtenants et tout chose qu' au dits armes appartient en chesqun man (iere) et lieu a leur plaisir quietement de

moi et mes heres a dit John mon fils et ses heres. En temoignage de quelles choses a cest ma present charter J'ai mys mon seal. Don le dismanche prochain apres la feste de l' translation de S^t^ Thomas le Martir, l' an du reigne le roy Henri quint apres le conquest tierce."

Then follows Margaret Legh's (Danyers) coat, viz., parti per pale, on the dexter side the cross engrailed, for Lyme; and on the sinister side the pale fusily, for Danyers.

Sir John Savage married Maud, daughter and heiress of Sir R. Swimmerton of Magna Barrow, in Cheshire. He was succeeded by his son, John Savage, who married Eleanor, daughter and heiress of Sir William Brereton. He died in 1463, and was succeeded by his son Sir John Savage, who married Catherine, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Stanley, and sister of Thomas Stanley earl of Derby. His son, Sir John Savage, led the charge of the left wing at the battle of Bosworth field, and, together with his uncle Thomas Stanley, afterwards Lord Derby, was very instrumental in promoting the accession of Henry VII. to the throne of England. In the latter years of the reign of Henry VII., viz., in 1492, he was killed at the seige of Boulogne. In this same year his second brother was consecrated bishop of Rochester, and was, perhaps, the most conspicuous member of a distinguished family. He was translated from Rochester to London in 1497, and from thence was raised to the archiepiscopal see of York in 1501. He founded the exquisite mortuary chapel attached to the church of St. Michael at Macclesfield, where his own heart was buried, and where the remains of many members of his family, before and after, have a fitting place of rest.[17] In the small square tower of this chapel there are two rooms for the accommodation of a resident priest, whose office would

[17] For an excellent account of chantry chapels in general, see Canon Raines' introduction to *History of Chantries within the County Palatine of Lancaster*, Chetham Society's transactions, vol. 59. A good general view of Macclesfield church, and the Savage chapel adjoining, is given in Lyson's *Britannia Depicta*. Many shields of arms are drawn in their proper positions on the church tower, though latterly two have shaled off.

consist in saying masses for the repose of the souls of the indwellers.

The west front is enriched with tracery, and adorned with eight shields of arms representing family and episcopal coats and quarterings.

"James Vernon of Haslington, son and heir of Robert Vernon of Lostock, was made prisoner in Chester by Sir John Savage K^{t} y^{e} elder." (*Post mortem* inquisition Vernon, 17° Henry VI.) His grandson, Sir John Savage, whose *post moriem* inquisition was taken in 19° Henry VIII., besides holding great possessions, was certified to have been the king's jailor of the jail at Macclesfield. This consecutive narrative of events from the days of Henry V. to Henry VIII., establishes very conclusively the sustained interest, direct and collateral, taken by the Savage family in and around Macclesfield.

The other shield, bearing a cross ermine, cannot be so clearly identified; but I think it may be assigned to Beck, or Beeke. If so, the colours are gules a cross ermine. Towards the close of the 15th century Roger Beke, sergeant-at-arms, married a daughter of Sir Lawrence Warren of Poynton, whose mother was Margaret, daughter of Sir Piers Legh of Lyme. (Watson's *House of Warren*.) Independently of this very probable reading, it appears that Sir Robert Beeke of Teno (10° Edward III.) had a son, Sir Nicholas Beeke, who married Joan, daughter of Ralph lord Stafford. The dates, in either reading, correspond to the time of the erection of St. Michael's church tower. In addition, the Savages quarter Beeke.

The next and last two shields are fixed on each side of the west window. The device is the same in both, viz., two bars and a bend over all, and I regard them both as belonging to Legh of Booths, who bore the Venables shield differenced with a bend gules. They appear to be duplicated for symmetry's sake. John Legh of Booths held twenty messuages and 530 acres of land in Sutton, within the forest of Macclesfield, as appears by his *post mortem* inquisition dated 8° Henry VI., 1430.

As the connexion which this family had with the district is so slight, I forbear going into further detail concerning them.

The deductions to be drawn from these fifteen personal coats of arms are as follow:

1. That the building of the church tower was not begun before the marriage of Sir Piers Legh and Margaret Danyers, as the presence of the Savage coat shows.

2. That it was built prior to the marriage of Sir Peter Legh (the second of Lyme) with Joane the daughter and heiress of Sir Gilbert Haydock, otherwise this very important family alliance would have been displayed. This inference is strengthened by a determination of the above Sir Peter Legh's age at the time of his death at Paris. Sir Peter Legh, the first of Lyme, having been married in 1388 and beheaded in 1399, it follows that his son (the second Sir P. Legh) could not have attained to a greater age than nine years at the date of his father's decapitation. As he died in 1422 from the effects of wounds received in the French wars, he could only have reached his thirty-third year of age when the accidents of war terminated his existence.

3. That the church was built during the joint lives of Sir Lawrence Fitton and his wife, else the arms of Hesketh of Rufford would not have had a place assigned to them.

All these circumstances, taken conjointly, favour the conclusion that the tower in St. Michael's church in Macclesfield was built some time between the years 1411 and 1422; and, as Sir P. Legh left a son, it is yet more probable that the year 1415 will approximate very nearly to the exact date. The additional circumstance of Sir P. Legh's remains being conveyed from Paris to Macclesfield for interment, shows the close interest this family was then taking in the church.

It is quite certain that an older church than the present one existed in Macclesfield, on the same site, founded by Eleanor, consort of Edward I.; but the oldest portions of the church, as it now stands, exclusive of the Savage chapel, were built in the early years of the reign of Henry V.

Market Cross.

The market cross formerly stood in the market place, where Jordangate, Chestergate, and Mill street meet. It was removed in 1776, and set up in a field in Upton township, near to the road side, where it remained till recently removed to Macclesfield public park. It now consists of a triple base and three rounded stones which formed the shaft. During the plague visitations in 1603 and 1646 it was used as a convenient place to which provisions were brought and money exchanges made. In 1665 banns of marriage were published on three successive market days at this Macclesfield cross, and the ceremony was afterwards performed by Mr. Thomas Stanley, a magistrate. (Alderley church records.)

Prince Charles Edward in Macclesfield.

The following letter, formerly in the possession of David Browne, once town clerk of Macclesfield, is interesting as giving a very graphic account of the entry of Prince Charles Stuart and his troops into Macclesfield at the time of the rising in 1745, and as showing the state of feeling amongst the officials and inhabitants on this occasion. It enters, with a minuteness of detail worthy of Boswell, into the entire business, and its author appears throughout amusingly unconscious of the sorry part he was playing. The letter was the production of Mr. John Stafford, an attorney living in Jordangate. He was an alderman of the borough, and he gave so much trouble to the corporation that they passed a law—which continued for many years in force—forbidding any lawyer to become a member of their body in future.

"Dear Sir,—I thank you for your kind advice, but it came too late; for in a few hours after I received the letter we were alarmed with the approach of the rebels. It was then too hazardous to remove my family, so I determined to stand my

ground, especially as my wife seemed to be in good spirits and in no way afraid. And indeed I must own that she had more courage than all the whole family besides. My brother and T. Tatton were with me that morning, but they went to Asenhurst, and Fanny (who, when the rebels were at Carlisle was as valiant as an Amazon, and of all things said that she should like to have a peep at the Pretender's son) durst not stay to see them march by the door, but rode off with great precipitation, with her brother, about a quarter of an hour before they entered the town.

"Before the dragoons came in here, a party of rebels that morning crossed a ford above Stockport bridge (which, with some others, was very summarily broken down some time since), and coming into the town, rode round the cross and dispersed papers to encourage men to enlist in the Prince's service. But, not meeting with the least encouragement, they retired. However, it was expected a larger body of them would have marched in that evening. We acquainted the officer who commanded the Dragoons with what we heard, upon which he sent one of our townsmen to Stockport, as a spy, to bring home intelligence of their motions. He, not returning, we concluded that the rebels stayed at Manchester. But the next morning (December 1st), about ten o'clock, we had notice from the country people that the rebels were within a quarter of a mile of the town.

"The young officer who commanded the party of Dragoons was at breakfast with Mrs. Mayoress when the alarm was given, and he was just saying 'Never fear Ma'am, we'll protect you.' Down went his dish, and he and his party of Dragoons made full as much haste out of the town as did Madame Frances. The good folks at church ran out before half the service was over, in the utmost confusion, and the whole town was in the greatest consternation.

"When the first emotion of my own fright was abated a little, I ventured to peep out of a garret window; but, seeing my wife and her sister below at the gate, shame roused my courage and

I ventured to stand by them and saw the whole army pass by my door, except a regiment of horse commanded by Lord Elcho, and some forces which came in later, but these I saw next day. The Quartermasters came first into the town, who, with their guard, were about twenty in number. They rode to the cross and enquired for the constables.

"By this time I was grown so manful that verily I followed this party to the cross (but, by-the-bye, my wife went along with me). They enquired for Sir Peter Davenport's house, whether he was in or not, and being answered 'Not,' they gave him a curse, and asked when he left it; and soon after rode to his house, and after viewing it inside and out, marked the door with the word 'Prince.' I had now so much valour that I ventured to speak with one of the best of them, and inquired what number of forces would be in the town that day. He answered 10,000, upon which I returned home much dismayed.

"Immediately afterwards came in a regiment of horse, by way of advance guard, said to be commanded by the Duke of Perth, and, in the second or third rank was the poor fellow (our client, Samuel Salt by name) who had been sent out as a spy, guarded by four terrible fellows, with their swords drawn. They soon found that he was a townsman, and that the eyes of the inhabitants were upon him. But fear had so metamorphosed our friend that his neighbours scarce knew him. He was shorter by half a yard than the day before. If he cast an eye on the right, 'D—n you (says a ruffian) you must not look that way.' If he looked to the left, 'D—n you, don't look that way,' so that he was forced to conduct his two eyes directly between the two ears of his palfrey, and all the whiles his guards kept laughing and pointing at him to the people who beheld his distress.

"After about four or five regiments had passed by us, it was said the Prince was coming up. You may safely imagine that we were all very attentive to see him, and it happened that a halt was made just opposite my door for a minute or two, which gave us an opportunity of having a very full view of him. He

was in highland dress, with a blue waistcoat trimmed with silver, and had a blue highland cap on, and was surrounded by about forty who appeared as his guard. He is a very handsome person of a man, rather tall, exactly proportioned, and walks very well, in my thinking not unlike Mr. N. Whitewall, but his face is not marked with the small pox. He walked on foot from Manchester, as he had done, 'tis said, all the way from Carlisle, and I believe they made their very best appearance in the town, expecting to have been received as at Manchester, but there was a profound silence, and nothing to be seen in the countenance of the inhabitants but horror and amazement.

"Endeavours were used to give him a peal of bells, for fear of insult, but four ringers were all that could be got, and they rang the bells backwards, not with design, but through confusion.

"Soon after, the Pretender's son came into the town, and was got to his quarters at Sir P.'s (which we now call Holyrood House). Soon after an order came to the Mayor to proclaim the Pretender, and he and the aldermen were directed to attend in their formalities. I had two or three messages to have gone in my gown, but I sent word it was out of the way, but that I would come, for by this time I had got some of the rebel officers in the house, and many more at the gates watching the procession, amongst whom I stood out of curiosity, and therefore durst not say I would not go for fear of being abused, by which means I escaped being present at so shocking a scene. Poor Mr. Mayor was obliged to be present at it, and, I hear, two or three aldermen. They made the town clerk repeat the proclamation after them, and when it was over they themselves gave a huzza or two; but I believe there was not one of our townsmen joined them.

"Many of the officers appeared very well. Some few indeed were very old, in particular Glenbuckett, who seemed to be eighty at the least, and bended almost double on horseback. Some of those who stood by us said he had been bedridden three years before the prince's son arrived in Scotland, but he had no

sooner heard of his coming than he had a kind of new life, and joined them with his whole clan and family, there being no less than his two sons, two grandsons, a great grandson, and a nephew along with him.

"Many of the common men, though dirty and shabby, were lusty fellows. There were many old men amongst the common soldiers, and a great number of boys. The use intended to be made of the boys, who were to be armed with pistols and knives only, was upon an engagement to disorder the king's cavalry by going amongst the ranks and cutting the legs of the horses.

"It was dark before the artillery came in, and, as it grew duskish, orders were given that the inhabitants should illuminate their houses upon pain of military execution, upon which most of the houses were illuminated, but with great ill will.

"As for their numbers, there was no judging of it from their march into the town, and they seemed to be very artful in concealing their numbers. They bespoke billets for 10,000, and said that 5,000 would come in next day, but for my part I don't think they exceeded 6,000 in all. All along as they marched, they had parties reconnoitering the country for eight or ten miles round about. These parties, which are inconsiderable in number, and a regiment of horse commanded by Lord Elcho, who were quartered the day before at Prestbury, were all that came into this town next day, which instead of being 5,000 were far short of 500.

"The first billet received was for ten men, and five horses, but with this no one came, only the officer I before mentioned, his servant, and five horses. But about nine o'clock at night there came a very ordinary fellow with a billet in these words and figures: 'Mr. Stafford, 408.' I read it 408, and was (as you may imagine) in no little hurry. But he soon told me it was 40 men and 8 officers. He gave us to understand he was a doctor, but we all thought him a highwayman, and verily believe he was one. We missed several things next day, and placed them to his account, and it was very visible he had tried all the locks in

my beaurow and my wife's chest, which were in the room where he lay. You may easily imagine we could have no heart to go to bed with such a company in the house, so that we passed a very miserable night ; but I had taken care to get some townsmen in the house for a guard, or else I durst not have stayed," &c.

The next morning Mr. Stafford obtained a pass for himself, his wife, and three sisters, to Mr. Downs of Shrigley. Directly he got there a party of highlanders came to search the house for arms. Mr. Stafford gave them "good words" and showed them his pass, whereupon they went away without further trouble. The pass was as follows :

"Allow the bearer John Stafford Esquire to pass from this with his wife and three sisters to Shrigley without molestation. By his highness' command, J. Murray."

Many persons, through timidity, sold their property whilst the alarm of the Pretender lasted. By a deed dated March 3, 1745, John Swindells of Rainow, gentleman, sold six cows, four calves, two mares, a cart, a plough, and his household goods, to Sarah Dearneley of Rainow, his mother-in-law, for 65*l.*

From Corry's *Macclesfield* it appears that Prince Charles marched into Macclesfield on the 1st December, 1745, and lodged at a house in Jordangate. The Dukes of Perth and Athol, the Marquis of Montrose and Dundee, the Earl of Cromartie, and several other persons of distinction, accompanied the troops ; and Sir David Murray was one of many who received knighthood at the hands of the Prince.

From the following entries in the churchwardens' accounts of Macclesfield it would seem that the fear of the Pretender was followed by great rejoicing at his defeat :

"1745. Spent in victuals and ale when his Highness our glorious Duke of Cumberland passed through the town, 2*l.* 11*s.* 0*d.*"[18]

[18] The Duke seems to have remained in Macclesfield for three days.

"Paid the verger, and for coals, making a bonfire, attending, cockades, and for ale for our parishioners, at the welcome news that his Highness our glorious Duke of Cumberland had gained a victory over the rebels, 2*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*"

"Paid at Culloden's battle thanksgiving day, 1*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*"

"Wood, coals, pitch barrel, gunpowder, 7*s.* 6*d.*"

"Paid ringers in cash, 10*s.*"

"Being the nativity of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, gave the ringers in memory thereof, 5*s.*"

THE ROYAL FOREST OF MACCLESFIELD.

As so large a part of Prestbury parish used to be included in the royal forest of Macclesfield, some account of it must necessarily form a fitting part to any historical contribution. And, because some acquaintance with forest laws in general is necessary to a right appreciation of those which appertained to Macclesfield forest in particular, a brief summary is here given of them.

Forests have always been in England, as have been laws relating to them. Up to Canute's time these laws were irregularly enforced, but always with cruelty. Canute first digested a forest code, which was simple and in accordance with the rude society of his day; but his laws have formed the broad basis of all subsequent enactments, which have differed less in kind than in humanity.

Persons of rank and consequence used to be appointed chief foresters or verderers; and under them were subordinate officers whose duty consisted in taking care of vert and venison. These latter were called regardors, or rangers, who had under them keepers, whose duty consisted in night watching and like employments, and who were known as agistors.

As, in time of war, each officer of a forest was expected to follow his superior lord equipped with the weapons used by him in the discharge of his ordinary duties, it is as well to know that the equipment of a chief forester consisted of two horses, a sword, five lances, and a shield. The next officer in rank was allowed one horse, a lance, and a shield. The agistors, or keepers, were furnished with a sword and a crossbow, and in taking forest service they obtained their freedom.

The chief forester of a royal forest was appointed by royal grant, or by letters patent, and the office, together with its duties and emoluments, generally became hereditary. The king only could sit in judgment on a chief forester, so great were his pre-

rogatives and power. He sat in judgment on the subordinate officers, and, as justice of the forest in eyre, awarded fines and punishment on all offenders. His person, and that of his subordinates, was protected by the most rigid enactments when discharging forest duties. If a forester pursued a trespasser in the forest and he escaped, a hue and cry could be raised against him, whereupon the man became a felon, and all who assisted in his capture were held blameless in case of his being killed, provided that no malice could be proved. If a free man trespassed in a forest and killed a royal stag, he forfeited his freedom; but if a serf did so, he paid the penalty with his life.

The duties of sworn subordinate foresters were to preserve game, and to bring all offenders against forest laws to the forest courts. And, because they had no privileges within the forests except such as were granted to them in virtue of their several offices, the grants had to be defined so that no one might accuse them of unlawful conduct when they availed themselves of forest privileges. If they failed in bringing offenders before the forest courts they were liable to be suspended, or even deprived of their offices; and if they committed acts contrary to the forest laws they were dealt with accordingly.

There were three forest courts. One was held every forty days for enrolling offences and "attaching" offenders, and was hence called a court of attachment. Another court was held once in three months for taking general cognizance of game, trespass, encroachments, despoiling of trees and underwood, for regulation of pannage, boundaries, hedges, &c., &c., and was called a court of swaynmote, to which all freeholders of the forest owed suit and service.

The chief justice in eyre of the forest presided at the third court, after receiving a royal commission. The proceedings were very similar to those at a court of assize, and the penalty for non-appearance was outlawry with forfeiture of goods.

Every royal forest was marked out by meres, or boundaries, which were perambulated at stated times. Demesne woods, and

even towns were often included within the boundaries, and these latter needed to be most accurately defined, because in either case it constantly became important to know if venison, *i.e.*, game, was killed within the forest or without it. In one case the act came within the "regard of the forest," or rangers' jurisdiction, and in the other case it came "without the regard." In the one case a trespass committed came within the jurisdiction of the next agistment, or next swaynmote court; in the other it was exempt from either jurisdiction.

A forest differed from a park, or a chase, as follows: A park was enclosed, and was a free warren, the right of which extended to hares, rabbits, pheasants, and partridges. A chase differed from a park and a forest in not being enclosed. The buck, doe, fox, martron and roe were accounted game in a chase, and all offenders were punished by common law. A forest included the privilege of park and chase, and contained, in addition, the hart, hind, hare, boar, and wolf. Hinds and harts were accounted different, because they were not hunted at the same time. Purlieus, or pourallers, were adjacent to forests, and had once been forest, under the arbitrary extensions of the kings, until the time of Henry III., who disafforested them and made laws for their government. Different officers were appointed, called pouraller men, who were bound to see that game coming out of the forest into the purlieu was fairly dealt with. A freeholder might openly chase a stag if found in his purlieu, but might not set up any hindrance against its return to the forest; neither might he or his dogs follow the game into the forest. This privilege had its restrictions, for no one who lived within seven miles of a forest might exercise it for forty days prior to proclamation of a royal hunt, lest the game should be disturbed; nor for the same period afterwards, lest the game should not have time to return to the accustomed haunts.

Mastiffs, kept as house dogs, had to be expediated, *i.e.*, deprived of three fore claws with a blow of a mallet or chisel; and it formed part of a subordinate forester's duty to see this operation per-

formed at stated times. At no time might a house dog leave the highway, and at the fawning season dogs might not leave the homestead. A special grant from the king, or earl of a county palatine, was necessary for the keeping of greyhounds within royal forest boundaries.

Lastly, no man might cut down or otherwise meddle with wood, underwood, &c., without special permission from the chief forester.

Pannage, or, as it was sometimes called, *Pasture*, meant a toll or rent received by foresters for allowing hogs to feed on acorns, beech mast, roots, &c., and for which an account was rendered at the swaynmote courts.

Privilege of Pannage consisted in allowing hogs to feed without payment of toll, and was generally extended to the officers of the royal demesnes. A like boon was commonly granted by free tenants to sub-tenants, who held lands adjacent. Religious houses were generally exempted, all or in part, and their prayers were sometimes, if not generally, counted as more than an equivalent payment. "Roger de Menilwarin gave to the monks of Dieulacres priory, for the good of his own soul, and for that of Randle E. of Chester and Lincoln (his mother's brother) in pure and perpetual alms, free common in his wood of Pevere, with husbot and haybot, in presence of his foresters, and *pannage* for fifty hogs, for which he and his heirs were to require nothing of them but their prayers." (Sleigh's *Leek*.)

When Henry de Lacy erected Congleton into a free borough he granted privilege of pannage to the burgesses. When William de Haydock, in 1332, granted a bovate of land and a messuage to his son he added privilege of pannage within his Haydock wood. (Deed *penes* Legh of Lyme.) Pannage, therefore, consisted, first, in the running and feeding of hogs in the woods; and, second, in the price or rate of running, unless there were special exemptions. Hogs were excluded from the royal forests during the breeding seasons, lest that they and their tenders might disturb the game. There were persons within the pre-

cincts of royal forests who rented the privilege of feeding pigs in the woods, and they were known as swineherds, or "Porcarii," and this office was sometimes hereditary. Some of them received money, and some were paid in kind.

The custom of swine keeping in the reign of Richard II. is well exemplified in a covenant made between Sir John Assheton of the manor of Ashton-under-Lyne and his tenants: "The tenants shall have their swine going in the demesnes from the latter end of harvest till sowing time, so they be ringed. The tenants shall keep them so that they do no harm to the Lord nor his neighbours, from seeding time till harvest; and, in default, the tenant shall pay to his lord 4^{d}. Every tenant that brews to sell shall have 4 swine; the miller shall have 3; and every of their sub-tenants 2; and every of their sub-tenants 1."

Royal forests and private hunting domains had hayes (literally hedges), which were formed with a view to entrap game from the forests in which they roamed, but were not places set apart for their permanent preservation. From these hayes game could be transferred to parks and other places securely fenced, where it could be hunted at pleasure. Besides hayes, there were in some places *æries* or breeding places for hawks; but the privilege of possessing an ærie was only conferred on persons of consequence, and, indeed, until the time when the English charter was extracted from King John, freemen, except of the highest rank, were not permitted to have æries of hawks in their woods. (Strutt.) Hayes and æries show the early connexion between the pastimes of hunting and hawking, as has been pointed out by Mr. Shirley in his work on deer forests.

The townships comprised within Prestbury parish were formerly half within the forest, and half without. Bosley, Sutton, Downes, Hurdsfield, Shrigley, Bollington, Disley, Ranowe, Upton, Tytherington, Macclesfield, Kettleshulme, and Wincle, were within the forest. Poynton, Adlington, Butley, Fallibroome, Prestbury, Mottram-Andrew, Chelford, Capesthorne, Siddington, Withington, Gawsworth, Marton, and Rode, were without the forest. My

authority for making this statement (which is in some respects at variance with other expressed opinions concerning the forest boundaries) is derived from a copy of the letters patent addressed by Prince Arthur (eldest son of Henry VII.) as Earl of Chester, in the 17° of his father's reign, to his well beloved subjects within the hundred of Macclesfield, for the collection of a subsidy of one thousand marks previously granted to him, and naming Sir John Warren, Thomas Legh of Adlington, Robert Duckenfield, and Roger Worth, as collectors. The different townships within Prestbury parish paid in accordance with the usual mise, or levy, as follows:

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Poynton	10	0	7	Bosley	1	10	5
Adlington	10	0	0	Sutton	1	11	4
Butley	1	8	2	Downes	0	2	0
Fallibroome	0	2	2	Hurdsfield	0	7	0
Prestbury	0	12	3	Bollington	0	15	0
Mottram-Andrew	0	3	2	Shrigley	0	6	8
Chelford	0	14	9	Disley and Stanley	0	9	9
Capesthorne	0	8	2	Ranowe	0	8	3
Siddington	0	16	0	Upton	0	8	0
Withington	0	16	2	Tytherington	0	14	2
Gawsworth	1	12	0	Macclesfield	1	16	3
Marton	1	4	0	Kettleshulme	0	7	0
North Rode	1	4	0				
				Total	£37	17	3

The boundaries of Macclesfield forest were as follows: Beginning at Otterscoe bridge, near Marple hall, in Chadkirk valley, the course ran due east by the river side until the county boundary was reached close to Compstall. Then, following a westerly and south-westerly direction, it extended along the Derbyshire and Staffordshire borders of Cheshire until an extreme limit in this direction was reached at North Rode. Thus far the natural boundary lines were drawn by the rivers Goyt, Etherow, and

Dane. From North Rode the line stretched to Gawsworth, and from thence it passed through Prestbury and Norbury to Otterscoe bridge, almost in a straight direction. The forest occupied considerably more than a third of the whole hundred of Macclesfield. In order that the boundaries as now described may be compared with an early perambulation in the *Adlington MS.*, and for the further object of reconciling apparent discrepancies concerning Gawsworth and Rode, it is now given :

"The foresters say that the compass of the forest begins at Rohehounde bridge (Otterscoe bridge) ascending the water of Mersey unto the water of Goyte, and ascending the water of Goyte unto the water of Dane, and descending the Dane unto Crumwell, and from Crumwell unto the town of Rode which is all within the forest but one house which late was Wyon's, and so from Rode to the town of Gawsworth which is all within the forest save the hall and church, and from Gawsworth the highway to Norbury Lowe, and from Norbury Lowe the going way to the river of Bosden, and so descending the river to Saltersbridge, and from Saltersbridge the highway to Rohehond bridge."

In the mise taken for Prince Arthur's subsidy, Gawsworth and Rode appear, therefore, to be represented by the hall and house.

The officers of Macclesfield forest consisted of one chief forester, nine subordinate foresters, a bailiff, and deputy bailiff. The chief forester had an extensive and very absolute jurisdiction. During the time of the Norman earls of Chester the family of Davenport held the office of chief forester by the usual homage and service. For some time the Davenports combined in their persons the double office of chief sergeant of the hundred and chief forester. As foresters they perambulated their districts in the same manner, and with the same powers, as the sergeants of the earldom ; and, in the execution of their duties, they had the assistance of the forest laws, and the right of taking the lives of offenders by decapitation without appeal.

The "Robber Roll," preserved amongst the archives of the Davenports, exhibits the members of this family in the exercise

of their double capacity of foresters for Macclesfield and Leek, and sergeants. The roll is a curious old parchment, written in Latin, about three inches broad, and in several places illegible. Enough however remains to show its general scope and purport. It sets forth the names of the persons who were decapitated by order of Vivian and Roger Davenport and others. As a rule, the robbers and outlawed persons were found in groups of two, three, or four, one of whom took the lead and was recognized as a master robber, whilst the followers were known only as common thieves, and cut purses.

In this roll the emoluments of the offices are twice set forth, to wit that by charter of Randle earl of Chester, the fee for taking a master robber was two shillings and a salmon ; and that for the decollation of a common thief one shilling.

Whilst Queen Isabella was lady of Macclesfield, she behaved to the Davenports in the same high-handed manner that characterized all her other proceedings. She exacted from them the duties of office, and appropriated the emoluments herself.

"These (says the roll) are the names of robbers who were beheaded in the time of Thomas de Davenport for whom no fees were received which properly belonged to the sergeancy, but which were kept back by our Lady the Queen as of her liberty of Macclesfield;" or, as elsewhere said, whilst she was lady of Macclesfield. For example, Richard le Bonetable was a master robber caught and decollated, and yet the fee belonging by right to the grand sergeant was withheld, viz., two shillings and a salmon.

The different places enumerated in the rolls in which robbers were caught and executed at various times were Olnetone park, Botheslegh, Deulacres, Baxcomsdene, Distislege, Haylmarishurst, Meppalis, Pointone, Adlington, Scerd, Buttileghe, Bolintone, Moctisherid, Hasslethe, Tymperleghe, Gawsworth, Congultone, Dockenfeld, Stanthoon, Astbury, Moseley, &c. This enumeration shows the wide jurisdiction the Davenports then held, and that they were chief officers of the royal forests of Macclesfield and Leek.

Tacked to the end of this roll are two slips of parchment, one relating to the cession of Wilwick park near Macclesfield, and the other to an inquisition taken before Thomas de Ferrars relating to Edmund Sutton's duties when he had to find mantles, &c. The first slip is to the following effect:

"In redditibus resolutis Johanni Davenporte capitalis servientis pacis hundredi de Macclesfeld pro quoddam redditum concesso antecessoribus suis in fedo per Ranulphum comitem Cestrie in excambio pro terris inclusis infra parcum que vocata Wilwick de parte xxiv solidos per annum pro terminis nativitatis Domini et nativitatis sancti Johannis Baptisti allocatis per compotis precedentibus tempore reginæ. Et quia testatum est quod semper solutus fuerit tanquam pertinens baillive sue per inquisitionem captum coram justiciario et auditoribus per sacramentum proborum et legatium hominum xx° die Junii anno regni regis Edwardi 3ii post conquestum xxvj."

The second slip is as follows:

"Inquisitio capta coram Thoma de Ferrers justiciario Cestriæ. Nichol. Pynock, &c. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod cum Edmundus de Suttone fuit appromator dum . . . . . in sergencia habuit xxiv solidos pro mantellis reperiendis subeuntibus suis, et quod Ricardus de Davenporte et heredes sui a tempore excambii dicte ballive pro terra in Wylwick annuatim perceperunt predictos xxiv solidos, &c., &c."

The hereditary rights of the Davenports as chief foresters were encroached upon after the Chester earldom had lapsed to the crown. In the reign of Henry VI. (as pointed out by Dr. Ormerod) the chief forestership was conferred on Thomas Lord Stanley, and, with trifling interruption only, has remained in the family of the Earls of Derby ever since. Not so, however, the office of grand sergeant of the hundred, which has been always exercised by the Davenports from the days of Randle Blundeville to the present time, though from changes of law, custom, and a more advanced civilization, the duties, as well as the emoluments, have gradually fallen into desuetude.

The subordinate forestерships were distributed over the districts of Marple and Wibbersley, Heghlegh or Hochlegh, Downes and Taxall, Gawsworth, Sutton and Disley, Stanley or Stanleghe. These offices were held by military service, and were for the most part hereditary, in the absence of default of duty or flagrant breaches of forest law.

Marple and Wibbersley were originally granted to the Stockports, and passed later on, by marriage, to the Vernons, and later still, in like manner, to the Stanleys. Amongst the Cheshire tenures is the following in 7° Edward IV.: "Wm Vernon, Knight, holds the manor of Marpill and Wibersley of the Earl of Chester by free service of the forest of Macclesfield."

Hochlegh, or Heghlegh, or High Leigh, in Sutton, was granted by Earl Randall to a family bearing the local name. It descended to the Foxwists of Foxwiste, in Adlington. The name Vivian de Foxwist, in 1309, is appended to a Davenport deed in which the sergeancy of Macclesfield forest is released to Thomas Davenport for two years. (Ormerod.) Hoghlegh was escheated by the felony of Robert Foxwist, who was heir to the Hoghleghs. It afterwards passed to the Leghs of Lyme. In 17° Henry VII. Sir Peter Legh had a grant of the forestership of High Leigh for his life.

Downes and Taxal were held by the family of Downes of Shrigley. They claimed the privilege of holding the king's stirrup when he came a hunting, and of rousing the stag, and of hanging and drawing within their jurisdiction. (Ormerod.) The crest of Downes of Shrigley was a stag's head and neck decouped gules, the horns vert, on a wreath argent and azure. (Wood's *Cheshire MS.*) This crest surmounts the helmet in an alabaster figure in the old church of Macclesfield.

Gawsworth was originally held by the Orrebys, and afterwards by their successors, the Fittons. The hereditary nature of these offices is well exemplified in the two following deeds (Wood's *MS.*):

"Ego Tho. Fyton de Gousworth dedi Thomæ Fyton de Pownall

totum statum que habeo in servicio unius forestarii foreste de Macclesfeld, habend: sibi et heredibus suis. 15° Richd 2."

"Ego Tho. Fyton de Gosworth confirmavi Laurentio Fyton filio meo unam forestiam quam tenui de Domo Com. Cest: per magnum servicium in foresta de Macklesfeld, Habend, &c. 16° Richard 2."

Sutton and Disley were held by the family of Sutton, though Adam, son of Alan Sutton, held his own lands in Sutton by the earl's charter. Adam Sutton was master sergeant of Macclesfield hundred before 1226, which office he ceded, or was deprived of by Randle Blundeville, who granted it to Vivian Davenport against his will, and in compensation for the park and vivaries of Macclesfield, of which the earl had deprived him. (Ormerod and Davenport deed.) In the reign of Edward III. John Sutton was bailiff, or receiver, of Macclesfield forest.

Worth, a township in Poynton, was held by the family of Worth first, and afterwards by that of Downes, through marriage.

Disley appears to have been subdivided, as in addition to what occurs under the head of Sutton, Jordan de Disley held his lands in Disley in name of forestership. The name John de Disteleghe occurs amongst the alphabet of charters in the tower of London, in the time of Edward II. The arms borne by the Disleys were argent, on a bend between two cotises dancetty gules, three martlets or. This coat was formerly to be seen in Macclesfield church. The Disleys were succeeded in office by the Sherds, through marriage; and the members of the Sherd family were sub-foresters till the civil wars in the days of the Stuarts, when they embraced the cause of the royalists and suffered ruin.

In 13° Richard II. the king granted a pardon, on payment of thirty shillings, to John de Hagh, vicar of Prestbury, and John de Rossyndale, chaplain, for purchasing a messuage, 100 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and 4 acres of wood, in Dystelegh, and the office of the bailliwick of the ninth part of the forestership of the forest of Macclesfield, which they had purchased from John del Sherd and Joyce his wife, being the inheritance of

Joyce. The settlement of the premises was confirmed to John and Joyce Sherd for life, with remainder to John son of Roger de Mottrum, and his heirs male, with like remainder in tail male to Roger, Ralph, Richard, and Robert, brothers of John. Remainder to Joyce and her heirs. (*Legh MS.*, copied by Canon Raines.)

Stanleghe was held by a family bearing the local name. In 23° Edward III. the king granted a license to Richard de Stanley to alienate his forestership of Macclesfield forest in favour of his daughter Joyce and her husband, Roger Symondson of Mottram, and their heirs, by reason of good and gratuitous services rendered to him in Gascony by Roger Symondson. The deed is dated from Chester, whither the king had gone as Earl of Chester, and is preserved amongst the muniments of Lyme.[19] This particular sub-forestership passed finally to the Dicons and Savages. (Ormerod.)

The following inquisition, taken at the time of the breaking out of the Welsh war in the reign of Edward I., gives a graphic account of the suit and service of the sub-foresters and others in the parish of Prestbury. It bears date 1287, and specifies, *inter alia*,

1. That Edward Fitton held a fee in Fulshaw, which had formerly been held by the Earl of Albemarle, by military service.

2. That John de Corona held the fourth part of a fee in Adlington by military service.

3. That Jordan de Titherington held Titherington by military service.

4. That the borough of Macclesfield had to find eight foot soldiers properly armed.

5. That the forest of Macclesfield had to provide one foot soldier for each free tenant.

6. That Richard de Vernon, Robert Downes, Thomas de Orreby, Roger de Stanley, John Sutton, Thomas de Worth, and

[19] I am indebted to Canon Raines for an inspection of the copy made by him from the original.

Jordan de Disley, each and all held their possessions by free forestership, and by coming to the king's summons, each following his banner, and each bearing the same arms with which their several bailliwicks were kept, viz., with bows and arrows, and that whilst so serving they were not to be absolved from their custody of the forest.

7. Richard de Davenport was to find eight fighting men at the king's summons, one of whom was to be mounted.

8. Richard de Stockport, William Pigot, and John de Mottram held their manors of Stockport, Butley, and Mottram-Andrew by attending the king's summons properly equipped, *i.e.*, "cum equo discoopto."

The privileges of forestership for Macclesfield forest were as follows: The foresters might take foxes, hares, squirrels, bawsones (murilegos) otters fishing in the forest, muschels (diminutive sparrow hawks), and cayles (aquilas). Of every beast taken in the forest they were to have a shoulder, and of every beast found killed in the forest the residue after the four quarters had been sent to Macclesfield. They were to have "husseia" (q^y^ forage) for their own cattle within their own devises, and when the lord of the land sold "husseiam" in his own woods out of the devises they were to have "husseiam" for their own cattle to feed on. When the lord of the soil sold (fogagium) aftermath, or autumn grass, out of the forest, the foresters were to have "fogagium" for their own cattle. They might make use of the woods within their own devises to hedge with, to bind or build with, or to burn, without deliverance of any man. The tops of all oaks and saplings fallen, given, or sold, throughout the forest were their property. They had "molas" if any were found in the forest. They were quit of pannage throughout the forest for all their hogs and for the hogs of all the men they were required to find. They were to have amongst them the best pig of all the lord's pannage, and finally every forester was entitled to a penny a day during the time of pannage. *(Adlington MS.)*

The word "husseia" is of obscure meaning. I have sought

information from various persons likely to be well informed, but hitherto unavailingly. In the following deed, copied out of the De Trafford collection by Canon Raines, the word is spelt "husseijam;" and as it relates to Chorley, a township adjacent to Wilmslow, must have been in common use for possessions bordering on the forest:

"Sciant, &c. Ego Willelmus de Wilmislowe dedi concessi et quietclamavi Roberto de Davenport et heredibus suis pro homagio et servicio suo totam terram meam in villa de Chorlege et totam terram meam tam assartam quam non assartam in Morlege cum omnibus libertatibus et aysamentis et cum husbote et haybote in omnibus boscis et locis feodo de Pownale et de Folsahe (Fulshawe) et de pannagio in omnibus boscis feodo de Pownale et de Folsahe pertinentibus. Et habeat trantatura (?) et *husseijam* libertatibus in omnibus boscis feodo de Pownale et de Fulsahe pertinentibus. Reddendo unum parum album cyrotecarum ad festum omnium sanctorum. Hiis testibus Tho. de Orreby, ... de Choudrey, Rob. de Downes, Hen. de Worth, Joh. de Motlowe, Rob. de Bromale, Reg. de Davenport, Hen. de Birchel, et aliis."

Du Cange and Fosbroke interpret the word as applying to a mantle, or garment, or housing. It is spelt hussia or houssia, indifferently. In the present instance it can have no such meaning, as it is described not only as a product of the woods, but as something for horses to feed on.

Mr. W. H. Ainsworth, in his story of *The Goldsmith's Wife*, in describing the preparations made by Edward IV. for his descent on France, says, "there were certain long vessels called 'huissieres' having two rows of oars, with doors and bridges for the transport of horses." And again, "hundreds of horses were put on board the 'hussieres.'" Mr. Ainsworth cites Froissart as his authority. The word clearly applies to horses, but whether in a general or a special sense I am unable to say.

The sentence is as follows: "Item habeant husseiam ad avaria sua propria infra divisas suas, et quando Dominus terre vendit husseiam in propriis boseis infra divisas habeant husseiam

ad avaria propria pascenda. Item quando dominus terre vendit fogagium in forestam habeant forestarii fogagium ad avaria sua propria."

The privileges, obligations, and emoluments of foresters varied in different localities. In Staffordshire, *circa* Edward I., William de Beneclegg held a virgate of land with appurtenances as the king's sergeant for the custody and bailliwick of Beneclegg wood. He rendered one mark per annum to the king for his farm, and he received six shillings yearly out of the herbage in the wood. He had a right to seven well-dried fallen oak trees, also privilege of pannage, and right of levying fourpence a carucate for pannage, &c., within the wood or forest. For help, he had one sworn foot forester allowed, and one sworn boy under the foot forester. The loppings of oak fell to him, and one penny for every windfall oak within certain limits. A mark for every bailliwick was a common payment to the king about this time. Special payments were made for places in forests where hawking was practised. Thus, in Hopewas wood (Staffordshire) the king received fourteenpence yearly for seven æries, or hawking grounds. (Shaw's *Staffordshire.*)

The burgesses of Macclesfield were granted housebote, and haybote, and pasture in the forest, except in such places as were marked out for the fattening of hogs. For these privileges each burgess had to pay a shilling a year. Housebote signified an allowance of timber out of the lord's wood for repair of tenements, for building with, and for fuel. Haybote implied a like privilege to take bushes, &c., for the repair of hedges, gates, &c.

From the days of Edward I. the abbot of Saint Werburg and his monks had the privilege of hunting twice a year in all the Cheshire royal forests, and of taking deer thence. They also obtained a license to disafforest their own lands, so as to be free from the jurisdiction of the verderers. (Ormerod.) They also had a hay, or enclosure for trapping game near to Prestbury village, as the name, "Abbot's hay," yet indicates.

A like privilege, in the shape of purlieu, was enjoyed by the

abbots of Dieulencresse, near Leek, as appears by the inventory made at the time of the dissolution of the abbey (1538, 29° Henry VIII.) and quoted in Sleigh's *History of Leek:*

"Item, the sayd manor off Leeke with the members off the same, doe adjoyne & immediately (without any intervalle save only the water off Dane) doe abutte upon y^e^ Kinge's Majestie's fforest of Macclesfeld: in times past the late Abbots off Dieulencrease had certeyn purlewes within the sayd manor off Leeke, and had in the same Hart, Hind, Buck, and Doe, and theyr freholders of the sayd hamlettes of Heyton and Rushton were theyre fforesters: by occasion whereoff certeyn landes liyng within the said hamlets off the frythe doe kepe the name unto this day, & be called the Abbot's forrest off the which also part is called the hie forrest, and part is called the middle forrest."

This privilege of purlieu did not extend to poaching within the royal preserves, for, *temp.* Henry I., the abbot of Dieulacres was indicted for that his dogs took two stags in the forest of Makelisfield, which stags were carried to his abbey of Dielacresse and there eaten; but the abbot excused himself by saying he was from home when this trespass happened. *(Harleian MSS.)*

The chamber or hunting lodge in Macclesfield forest was situate above Sutton hall, at the origin of one of the three principal heads of the river Bollin. It stood therefore a little to the south-east of Macclesfield. The chamber is marked in the ordnance survey very near to the forest chapel and Bollinhead cottage.

Webb, writing two centuries since, says, "Bollin springeth in divers heads in Maxfield forest. The two principal heads come from the foot of Shutlingslowe by the hall of Ridge, and after taking in another that cometh from the chamber in the forest, passeth to the hall of Sutton."

When the *Vale Royal* was published, great store of red and fallow deer, hares, &c., were kept in the forest, and, as the breed of wild cattle at Lyme has been preserved there time out of

mind, it is reasonable to infer that these beasts, as well as the red deer still preserved there, are descended from the royal forest herds.

There were various combes or low lying lands within the forest of Macclesfield, which were specially fenced in, and probably acted as game traps. In the early forest days combes existed near the chamber, called Nesset combes, and in Hoghleghe, Chelford, Pott, Butley, Wilmslow, and Cheadle.

Dr. Ormerod suggests that Wilmslow and Cheadle were presumably formed out of the wastes of the demesne lands of the earls of Chester. The lords of these districts were bound yearly to repair the fences of the combes, and the former of them, and Edward Trafford, had to send a guard for the earl's protection when hunting in the forest. In 4° Henry IV., Sir William Booth "held the manor of Bollin of the king as Earl of Chester as of the lordship and hundred of Macclesfield by the fourth part of a knight's fee; and by the service that he, the said William and his heirs, and in like manner Edward Trafford gentleman, should find thirty-three men to keep guard in the combes of Macclesfield forest when the Lord Earl came a hunting, and to make 72½ roods of the hay (or fence) of the combes, at their own expense, at any time of the year when it was deemed necessary by the persons superintending the said hays."

The following record of similar services, in so far as repairing the hays of the combes is concerned, is to be found in the *Adlington MS.:*

"These are the parcels of hydes (a hyde being about one hundred acres) to make the hay about the combes (literally valleys between hills) in the forest, by the lords and inhabitants of divers towns of the hundred. And first from the hedge near the Nesset (Nesset combe is near to the chamber) ascending towards Okyn Clonhead. Adlington begins at the Hoghlegh, and makes twenty perches. Chelford next. Pott from the same hedge makes twenty perches. Butley of free ..... makes 20 perches."

Enclosures of a like nature seem to be intended in a grant to John de Arderne of Aldford by Randle Blundeville: "Et cum clausura haiæ, quam silicet clausuram de predicto fœdo de Aldford habui ad haim meam de Macclesfeld claudendam." (Ormerod.)

The following is a good illustration of tenure, privilege, service, and obligation, as connected with Needwood forest, *temp.* Henry II. William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, grants to William de Rydewan and his heirs that they shall have perpetual common pasture in Needwood forest within certain specified limits, together with all cattle except pigs and goats, with good and sufficient entrance to and exit from such pastures; also pannage for forty pigs within these bounds, together with assarts without let or hindrance for himself and his men; and they are to make and sustain proper hays within Lord Ferrars' wood park at Rugeley, so that beasts of game can be held within these bounds. For which privileges W. de Rydewan and his heirs were to pay twenty shillings annually. (Shaw's *Staffordshire.*)

Seven free tenants had demesne woods within the bounds of Macclesfield forest, which were carefully marked out and entered in the swaynmote records. Brooks and rivulets were principally employed for this purpose. In the reign of Henry VII., when the Earl of Derby was chief forester, the representatives of the families of Vernon, Hyde, Warren, Legh, Downes, Fitton, and Sutton held demesne woods.

The demesne wood of Legh of Adlington began near Poynton and extended as far as Styperson park and the hall. The demesne wood of Downes commenced at the eastern boundary of Styperson, and extended from Pott to Kerridge. Warren's demesne wood began on the northern boundary of Adlington wood, and stretched toward Norbury. Then, after a little intervening territory, the demesne wood of Vernon began and extended to Wybersley near Disley, a dependency of Marple. The demesne wood of Sutton, situate in Bosley, was joined by that of Fitton of Gawsworth, on the extreme southernmost forest boundary.

"These are the devises betweene y^e^ demayne wood and the woode of Sir Richard Vernon beginning from Wybersleye Cloyes ascendinge unto y^e^ river, and so over agayne unto the Planch, & so from the Planches over agayne unto the Bluntes brook, & descending Bluntes brook unto Cartlache.

"Also these are the devyses betwine y^e^ demayne wood and the woode of Robert Hyde in libertie, beginning at Cartlache when it falleth into Bluntes brook.

"The devyses of the Lorde of Poynton after the same manner in libertie beginning from Cartlache into Holebrooke.

"The devyses of the Lorde of Adlington beginning at the Holebrooke Rosomecloughe ascending unto the Holebrooke, and so descending unto Peddeleighe brooke, and so till Caldwalych fall into hit. And so descending Caldwalyche unto Hawkescloughe, and so ascending Hawkescloughe unto the market gate, and so from the market gate over the warte (q^y^ water) unto Bystall (Berystall) of Ravenoke.

"The devyses betwine the demeyne lande of the lorde of Bollington beginninge at the Clymyursall descending the Clyffe unto the hedge of Pott, and from the hedge of Pott descendinge unto the demeyne of Buclestone Deane, & so descendinge the demeyne of Holehurslyshenede and so overthwarde to Ravenoke, and soe from Ravenoake to the top of Cayridge (Kerridge) unto Sydewaye, and descending Sidewaye into the ryver runninge towardes Bollington.

"The devyses belonging to the demeyne landes and the lorde of Gowsworth beginning at the nether black lowe over thranorthe Dinniswood unto the brooke under the hedge of Nettlehurste and descendinge unto foorthe of Schepleye, and so ascendinge the Ronte Brooke into the fayrehoalyhe.

"The devidinges betwine the lades (q^y^ lords) demayne and the demeyne of Bosseleighe beginning at the Fayreshoolyh of the devises of Gawsworth unto the Haverfenese which woode is to Bosleighe and the playne of our sovereigne Lorde the Kinge, and so following the Haversenese unto Scuseyer, and from

Scuseyer descendinge unto Hawkesleighe, and from Hawksleighe into Shilbrook, and from Shilbrook unto Dane.

"The(se) are enrolled in the rolles of the Courte at Macclesfelde at the swaynmote of the forest aforesaid, holden at Macclesfelde before Thomas Earle of Darbye, Lord Stanley steward of Maxfylde, and chief forester of the forest aforesaid, the Moundaye next after the feast of the conversion of S^{t} Paule in the yeare of the reigne of King Henry the Seventhe, after the conquest the three and twentythe. In witness whereof," &c. *(Adlington MS.)*

The "Macclesfield Rolls," known also as the Chester series of the "Welsh Records," now preserved in part at the Record office, contain an account of the several Bailiffs of the Hundred, Borough, Forest, and Park of Macclesfield; and, as the names of these respective office-bearers are locally interesting, I have had them extracted for the space of nearly a century in order that the present subject may be rendered more complete, and that they may furnish data for future inquirers.

The office of bailiff of the manor and forest of Macclesfield was one of consequence, and generally held by persons of mark. As Dr. Ormerod has pointed out, the duties of the bailiff for the time being were to carry the rod, or mace, before the Earl of Chester, to execute processes, &c., to receive rents, and to act as chief gaoler of Macclesfield gaol; but there is no evidence to justify the further assertion that this office was hereditarily held by the family of Mottram prior to the middle of the 14th century.

About the middle of the 13th century Thomas de Macclesfield was bailiff, yet the office did not descend to his posterity. In five different deeds belonging to the De Trafford family (for an inspection of copies of which I am indebted to Canon Raines) as many different persons signed their names as holders of this particular office. Thus, in 1246, in a deed of grant from Gilbert de Wilmeslowe to John Fitton of Bollin, the signatories are Thomas "tunc ballio de Macclesfeld," Robert de Downes, Henry de Honford, John de Mottrum, Richard de Baggiley, Urian de Foxwist, and others.

In another deed, the date of which is about the year 1256, the witnesses are John de Hegham bailiff of Macclesfield, Richard de Orreby, Richard Birchels, Roger Davenport, and others.

To another deed of a few years' later date, Būdeō de Coudray signed his name as bailiff of Macclesfield, together with those of Thomas de Orreby, Robert Downes, Henry de Worth, Roger Davenport, and Henry Birchels.

At the latter end of the 13th century, *i.e.*, *circa* 1297, an ecclesiastic held the office, as appears by another deed executed at Macclesfield, to which the following names are appended: Thomas (clericus) bailiff of Macclesfield, William Pigot, Robert del Downes (uno Anno de Foxwist) and others.

In the beginning of the 14th century Ralph de Speyne's name was affixed to a Trafford deed, as bailiff of Macclesfield, together with the names of John de Legh, John de Ardern, John de Hyde, John de Baskerville, Thomas Davenport, and others.

The same series of deeds, all relating to Wilmslow and Fulshaw, shows that, in 1324, Hamo de Massey was bailiff of Macclesfield.

In 1349 Dr. Ormerod shows that two co-heiresses of John "le gaolar" claimed the office of bailiff of Macclesfield by prescription, and established it by a plea at Chester in 23° Edward III. He further shows that, in the same reign, Adam de Mottrum did homage to the Prince of Wales for the office of bailiff and custody of the gaol at Macclesfield, and that the court rolls indicate John de Mottrum as seized in fee of the same office and custody in the succeeding reign, viz., 10° Richard II., 1386.

The Welsh records show, *inter alia*, that the family of Mottram were bailiffs of Macclesfield forest till the year 1414, after which time the duties were performed by the Savages. There is evidence, therefore, to show that the Mottrams were bailiffs for about 100 years, *i.e.*, from a date a little prior to 1349 to 1414.

WELSH RECORDS, MINISTERS' ACCOUNTS, CHESTER SERIES MACCLESFIELD.

10 and 11 Henry IV., 1409-10. From Michaelmas 10 Henry IV. to Michaelmas 11 Henry IV.

Park. John Savage parker.
Hundred. Thomas Chedlee and Thomas Swetenham bailiffs of the Hundred of Macclesfield.
Borough. John del Lowe catchpoll, and Reginald del Lowe reeve.
Forest. John Mottrom bailiff, and John Savage his deputy.

Michaelmas. 12 to 13 Henry IV. 1411–12.

Hundred. Thomas Chedlee and Thomas Swettenham bailiffs.
Borough. William Byllyng reeve, John de Falybrone catchpoll.
Forest. John Mottrom bailiff, John Savage his deputy.
Park. John Savage parker.

Michaelmas. 13 Henry IV. to 1 Henry V.

Hundred. Thomas Cheddele and Thomas Swetenham bailiffs.
Borough. John de Newhall catchpoll, and John Bedlem reeve.
Forest. John Savage attorney and deputy of John Mottrom bailiff.
Park. John Savage parker.

Michaelmas. 13 Henry IV. and 1 Henry V. 1412-14.

Forest. John Savage deputy of John Mottrom bailiff.
Park. John Savage parker.
Hundred. Thomas Cheddele and Thomas Swettenham bailiffs.
Borough. John de Newehall catchpoll and John Bedlem reeve.

Michaelmas. 1 to 2 Henry V. 1413-14.

Hundred. Thomas Cheddele (deceased) and Thomas Swetenham and James Feton, deputy of Thomas Cheddele deceased, bailiffs.

Borough. Thomas Beek reeve, and Ranulph le Flecchercatchpoll.
Park. John Savage parker.
Forest. John Savage bailiff.

Michaelmas. 2 to 3 Henry V. 1414-15.

Hundred. James Fyton and Thomas de Shwetenham bailiffs.
Borough. John de Lowe reeve, and John Boulond catchpoll.
Forest. John Savage bailiff.
Park. John Savage parker.

Michaelmas. 3 to 4 Henry V. 1415-16.

Hundred. James Fyton and Thomas Swetenham bailiffs.
Borough. Reginald Lowe reeve, and John de Hurdeffeld catchpoll.
Forest. John Savage bailiff.
Park. John Savage parker.

Michaelmas. 4 to 5 Henry V. 1416-17.

Hundred. James Fyton and Thomas de Swetenham bailiffs.
Borough. Richard Houde reeve, Thomas Beek catchpoll.
Forest. (Chivaler) Sir John Savage bailiff.
Park. John Savage parker.

Michaelmas. 5 to 6 Henry V. 1417-18.

Hundred. William de Honford and James Fyton bailiffs.
Borough. Geoffrey del Lowe reeve, and Richard Phelipps catchpoll.
Forest. John Savage bailiff.
Park. John Savage parker.

Michaelmas. 6 to 7 Henry V. 1418-19.

Hundred. William de Honford and James Fyton, bailiffs.
Borough. John Byllynge reeve, and Adam Okeden catchpoll.
Forest. John Savage bailiff.
Park. John Savage parker.

Michaelmas. 7 to 8 Henry V. 1419-20. (No. 72.)

Hundred. William Honford and James Fyton bailiffs.
Borough. Thomas Okedene reeve, John Baguley catchpoll.
Forest. John Savage, Chivaler, bailiff.
Park. John Savage parker.

Michaelmas. 8 to 9 Henry V. 1420-21.

Hundred. William Honford and James Fyton bailiffs.
Borough. Laurence Blag catchpoll, and Thomas Blag reeve.
Forest. John Savage, Chivaler, bailiff.
Park. John Savage parker.

Michaelmas. 9 to 10 Henry V. (Until his death.)

Hundred. William Honford and James Fiton bailiffs.
Borough. Richard Honne catchpoll, and John Glaskurion reeve.
Forest. John Savage, Chivaler, bailiff.
Park. John Savage parker.

[Here several rolls are missing.]

Michaelmas. 9 to 10 Henry VI. 1430-31.

Forest. John Savage, knight, bailiff.
Borough. William Clayton catchpoll, and Thomas Stathom reeve.
Hundred. James Fyton and William Sutton deputy of Elizabeth who was wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Joane her sister, daughter and co-heires of John le Warde, beadle.
Park. John Savage, knight, parker.

Michaelmas. 10 to 11 Henry VI. 1431-2.

Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.
Borough. Roger Falybrome catchpoll, and John Lithersegge reeve.

Hundred. James Fyton and William Sutton deputies of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Joane her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde, beadle.

Park. William Troutebek farmer of the park.

Michaelmas. 11 to 12 Henry VI. 1432-33.

Forest. John Savage, knight, bailiff.

Borough. John Bruwode catchpoll, and Robert del Halle reeve.

Hundred. James Fyton and William Swetenham deputy of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Joane her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde, beadle.

Park. William Troutebek farmer of the park.

Michaelmas. 12 to 13 Henry VI. 1433-34.

Borough. Richard de Swerston catchpoll, and William de Maclesfeld reeve.

Hundred. James Staveley and William Swetenham deputies of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Joan her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde, beadle.

Park. William Troutebek farmer of the park.

Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.

Michaelmas. 13 to 14 Henry VI. 1434-5.

Borough. Robert Holynshede catchpoll, and Laurence Blagg reeve.

Hundred. James Stavely and William Swetenham deputy of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Joan her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde, beadle.

Park. William Troutebek farmer of the park.

Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.

Michaelmas. 14 to 15 Henry VI. 1435-6.

Lordship and Hundred. William Troutebek, Esq., and John his son, farmers of the manor, lordship, and Hundred of Macclesfield.

Forest. John Savage, knight, late bailiff of the forest. (By this account it seems that John Legh of Bothes was the bailiff of the forest in 5 Henry VI.)

Michaelmas. 15 to 16 Henry VI. 1436-7.

Hundred. William de Swetenham deputy of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Joane her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde and Thomas Davenport, beadles.

Borough. William Hull reeve, and John Barker catchpoll.

Forest. John Savage, knight, bailiff.

Park. John Savage, Esq., farmer of the herbage of the park.

Michaelmas. 16 to 17 Henry VI. 1437-8.

Hundred. William de Swetenham deputy of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Joane her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde and Thomas Davenport, beadles.

Borough. John Othe Oldfeld catchpoll, by Thomas Othe Oldfeld, his attorney accountant for the same, and John Marler reeve.

Park. John Savage, Esq., farmer of the herbage of the park.

Forest. John Savage, knight, bailiff, John Savage, Esq., his deputy.

Michaelmas. 17 to 18 Henry VI. 1438-9.

Hundred. William de Swetenham deputy of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Joane her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde and Thomas Davenport, beadles.

Borough. Thomas Davy reeve, and Vivian Legatuller catchpoll.
Park. Robert Leigh, Esq., farmer of the herbage of the park.
Forest. John Savage, knight, bailiff.

Michaelmas. 18 to 19 Henry VI. 1439-40.

Hundred. William de Swetenham deputy of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Agnes her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde and of Thomas Davenport, beadles.
Borough. Peter Rossendale reeve, and Vivian le Gatuller catchpoll.
Park. Robert Leigh, Esq., farmer of the herbage of the park.
Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.

Michaelmas. 19 to 20 Henry VI. 1440-41.

Hundred. William de Swetenham deputy of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Agnes her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde and Thomas Davenport, beadles.
Borough. Peter Rossendale reeve, and Vivian le Gatuller, catchpoll.
Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.
Park. John Savage, Esq., farmer of the herbage of the park.

Michaelmas. 20 to 21 Henry VI. 1441-2.

Hundred. William de Swetenham deputy of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Agnes her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde and Thomas Davenport, beadles.
Borough. John Cartwyrght Barker reeve, and Vivian Gatiler catchpoll.
Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.
Park. John Savage, Esq., farmer of the herbage of the park.

Michaelmas. 21 to 22 Henry VI. 1442-3.

Hundred. William de Swetenham deputy of Elizabeth who was

the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Agnes her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde and Thomas Davenport, beadles.

Borough. Adam Rowe reeve, and Robert del Halle catchpoll.
Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.
Park. John Savage, Esq., farmer of the herbage of the park.

Michaelmas. 22 to 23 Henry VI. 1443-4.

Hundred. William de Swetenham deputy of Elizabeth who was the wife of Thomas Swetenham, and Agnes her sister, daughters and co-heirs of John le Warde and Thomas Davenport, beadles.
Borough. Thomas Alicok reeve, and John Blagge catchpoll.
Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.
Park. John Savage, Esq., farmer of the herbage of the park.

Michaelmas. 23 to 24 Henry VI. 1444-5.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Cartewright catchpoll, and John Person reeve.
Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.
Park. John Savage, Esq., farmer of the herbage of the park.

Michaelmas. 24 to 25 Henry VI. 1445-6.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Parsons catchpoll, and John Blagge, the elder, reeve.
Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 25 to 26 Henry VI. 1446-7.

Hundred. William Swetenham bailiff.
Borough. John Pyggotte catchpoll, Richard Hunt reeve, Reginald Shryggeley his deputy.
Forest. John Savage, the younger, bailiff.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 26 to 27 Henry VI. 1447-8.

Hundred. William Swettenham bailiff.
Borough. Matthew Bostok catchpoll, John Olyver reeve, by Reginald Shriggelegh his deputy.
Forest. John Savage, son of Sir John Savage, kt., bailiff.
Park Same as before.

Michaelmas. 27 to 28 Henry VI. 1448-9.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Olyver reeve, Thomas More catchpoll, and Reginald Shriggelegh his deputy.
Forest. Same as before, by Richard Hunter his deputy.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 28 to 29 Henry VI. 1449-50.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Nicholas Heskette reeve, Edward Hensagh catchpoll.
Forest. Same as before; same deputy.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 29 to 30 Henry VI. 1450-1.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Blagge catchpoll, Richard Sutton reeve.
Forest. Same as before; same deputy.
Park. No account.

Michaelmas. 30 to 31 Henry VI. 1451-2.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Roger de Sidebothom catchpoll, Reginald Shriggeley reeve.
Forest. John Savage, son of Sir John Savage, and John Savage, son of the same John, Esq., bailiffs.
Park. Same as before.

[The next roll is missing.]

Michaelmas. 32 to 33 Henry VI. 1453-4

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Marler catchpoll, John Hunt reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 33 to 34 Henry VI. 1454-5.

Hundred. William Swettenham bailiff.
Borough. John Holden catchpoll and reeve.
Forest. John Savage, son of Sir John Savage, Kt., and John Savage, son of the same John, Esq., bailiffs.
Park. John Savage, son of John Savage, Esq., farmer.

Michaelmas. 34 to 35 Henry VI. 1455-6.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Robert Hanford catchpoll, Nicholas Bothe reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 35 to 36 Henry VI. 1456-7.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. William Hondesond catchpoll, Ranulph de Leghes reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 36 to 37 Henry VI. 1457-8.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Hugh Clayve reeve, William Wylot catchpoll.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 37 to 38 Henry VI. 1458-9.

Hundred. Same as before.
Forest. Same as before.

Park. Same as before.
Borough. Richard Sutton catchpoll, Thomas Harrison reeve.

[Here one roll is missing.]

Michaelmas. 39 Henry VI. and 1 Edward IV. 1460-61.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Roger del Legh and Robert Dounes catchpolls, Richard Trafford and Laurence Blagge reeves.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. John Savage the younger, Esq., and John his son, farmers.

[The next roll is missing.]

Michaelmas. 2 to 3 Edward IV. 1462-3.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Pygot catchpoll, Hugh Bedell reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 3 to 4 Edward IV. 1463-4.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Hugh Glayve catchpoll, Hugh Prestwode reeve.
Forest. John Savage, Esq., bailiff.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 4 to 5 Edward IV. 1464-5.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Hugh Roo catchpoll, William Janny reeve.
Forest. Sir John Savage, Kt., bailiff.
Park. Sir John Savage, Kt., and John his son, farmers.

Michaelmas. 5 to 6 Edward IV. 1465-6.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. William Persons catchpoll, Ralph Olyver reeve.

Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 6 to 7 Edward IV. 1466-7.

Hundred. Ranulph Maynewaryng bailiff.
Borough. Arnold Savage catchpoll, and William Parsons reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 7 to 8 Edward IV. 1467-8.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Richard Hunter catchpoll, John Hephalfe reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 8 to 9 Edward IV. 1468-9.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Ranulph Grene catchpoll, Reginald Stephenson reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 9 to 10 Edward IV. 1469-70.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. William Jenny catchpoll, John Marler, junior, reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 10 to 11 Edward IV. 1470-1.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. William Persons catchpoll, Christopher Alegh reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 11 to 12 Edward IV. 1471-2.

Hundred. Thomas Lord Stanley bailiff.
Borough. William Persons catchpoll, John Holdernes reeve.

Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 12 to 13 Edward IV. 1472-3.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Stubbes catchpoll, Christopher Legh reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 13 to 14 Edward IV. 1473-4.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Richard Plont catchpoll, Matthew Waynewright reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 14 to 15 Edward IV. 1474-5.

Hundred. John Barne bailiff.
Borough. Christopher Legh catchpoll, John Stubbes reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 15 to 16 Edward IV. 1475-6.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Robert Falibrome catchpoll, John Alicok reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 16 to 17 Edward IV. 1476-7.

Hundred. John Barnes bailiff.
Borough. Thomas Holynhed catchpoll, Hugh Hyne reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 17 to 18 Edward IV. 1477-8.

Hundred. John Ward bailiff.

Borough. John Parson catchpoll, Robert Falibrond reeve.
Forest. Sir John Savage, the elder, bailiff.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 18 to 19 Edward IV. 1478-9.

Hundred. John Pycrofte bailiff.
Borough. Thomas Waynewright catchpoll, Thomas Champen reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Sir John Savage and Sir John his son. (Qy same as before.)

[The next roll is missing.]

Michaelmas. 20 to 21 Edward IV. 1480-1.

Hundred. John Pycrofte deputy of Thomas Lord Stanley bailiff.
Borough. Christopher Legh catchpoll, John Alecok reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 31 to 32 Edward IV. 1481-2.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Richard Rosyndale catchpoll, John Þson reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 22 Edward IV. to 1 Richard III.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Hidd catchpoll, Thomas Daw reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 1 to 2 Richard III. 1483-4.

Hundred. Thomas Lord Stanley, Kt., bailiff.
Borough. Ottevely Fernes catchpoll, Thomas Aleyn reeve.
Forest. Same as before.

Park. Same as before.

Michaelmas. 2 Richard III. to 1 Henry VII. 1484-5.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Hyde catchpoll, Edmund Scalehorne reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

1 to 2 Henry VII. 1485-6.

Hundred. Thomas Lord Stanley, Kt., bailiff.
Borough. Elias Newton catchpoll, John Furnes reeve.
Forest. John Savage, the elder, Kt., bailiff.
Park. John Savage, Kt., and John Savage son of the same, Kt., farmers.

2 to 3 Henry VII. 1486-7.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Reginald Oldefield catchpoll, John Hide reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

3 to 4 Henry VII. 1487-8.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Geoffrey Vernon catchpoll and reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

4 to 5 Henry VII. 1488-9.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Alycok catchpoll, Richard Ledebeter reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

5 to 6 Henry VII. 1489-90.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Stevenson catchpoll, John Foxe reeve.

Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

6 to 7 Henry VII. 1490-1.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Robert Champeyn catchpoll, Robert Catcher reeve.
Forest. John Savage, the elder, Kt., bailiff.
Park. Same as before.

7 to 8 Henry VII. 1491-2.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Greves catchpoll, Ralph Holynhed reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

8 to 9 Henry VII. 1492-3.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Robert Downes catchpoll, John Watson reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Sir John Savage, Kt., farmer.

9 to 10 Henry VII. 1493-4.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. John Worthe of Bacche catchpoll, John Lowe reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

10 to 11 Henry VII. 1494-5.

Hundred. Same as before.
Borough. Ralph Shore catchpoll, Laurence Holynhed reeve.
Forest. Same as before.
Park. Same as before.

11 to 12 Henry VII. 1495-6.

Hundred. Same as before.

Borough.	Thomas Dale catchpoll, Roger Rowe reeve.
Forest.	John Savage, Esq., bailiff.
Park.	Thomas Bishop of London occupier of the park.

12 to 13 Henry VII. 1496-7.

Hundred.	Same as before.
Borough.	Edward Fitton, Esq., catchpoll, Nicholas Clapham reeve.
Forest.	John Savage, Kt., bailiff.
Park.	Thomas Bishop of London farmer.

13 to 14 Henry VII. 1497-8.

Hundred.	Same as before.
Borough.	Sir John Savage, Kt., catchpoll, Richard Brauster reeve.
Forest.	Same as before.
Park.	Same as before.

14 to 15 Henry VII. 1498-9.

Hundred.	Same as before.
Borough.	Roger Donne catchpoll, William Holynhed reeve.
Forest.	Same as before.
Park.	No account.

15 to 16 Henry VII. 1499-1500.

Hundred.	Same as before.
Borough.	Hugh Fernyall catchpoll, Adam Baxter reeve.
Forest.	Same as before.
Park.	No account.

When, under pressure of increasing population, wealth, and civic freedom, in the reign of Henry VII., the ancient forest laws, tenures, and privileges, were being gradually relaxed in stringency, the forest boundaries began to be greatly encroached upon, and lands brought into cultivation by neighbouring squires,

and other interested persons. Encroachments and squattings abounded on all sides. Common lands paid no rent to the king, and the numerous intakes only a fractional part of their value. To remedy this state of things a general survey of the common lands, intakes, &c., was ordered to be made in the latter part of the reign of Henry VIII., so that the names and areas of the remaining commons, and the names and dimensions of the several intakes, encroachments, &c., and the names of the several occupiers, tenures, and rents, might be more clearly ascertained.

Commons a mile in length and half a mile in breadth are frequently named in this survey, but these dimensions must have been guessed at rather than accurately ascertained by measurement, for, if taken at their literal computation, they would have exceeded the entire forest in their joint areas. What Webb wrote of the Brereton division of Nantwich Hundred at this period might have been said with equal truth of Macclesfield forest: "To pass over those great spacious heaths and commons that lie everywhere dispersed in this part of the hundred, which as they have in long continuance been cropped and snipped round about their borders on every side, so the industry of future ages, if it should increase as it hath done, would bring them in time to a narrower compass."

In the *Adlington MS.*, preserved in the Chetham College Library, a record of this survey is given, which, in addition to furnishing landmarks, and names of places and persons of local value and interest at the present day, forms a starting point from whence the agricultural conquests in this particular locality, during the last three centuries, can be computed. Even now an almost unbroken solitude reigns between Taxal and Wildboarclough, where the undulating ground is largely interspersed with moor and waste.

"*These bene the commynes within the boundes of the forest of Macclesfeld wich gyves no rente to the Kynge, and these bene intackes upon the same commynes which be not rented to the Kynge to any valewe as ground is.*

"In primis a comyn in Goswerthe called the Mer and the Wood which conteyneth a myle and halfe in lengthe & a myle of of bredthe.

"Item a close lyinge in Sutton which was an intacke of the comine and the londe payed the ferme and soe is cast onle to the comyne agayne for the weage that was behind, and he was content.

"Item a comyne which longeth to Boseleye and Wyncull called the Mynde which is by estimacon two myles of lengthe and a myle of breade.

"Item an other comyne longinge to Boseley called Dane Wood w^{h} is by estimacōn an halfe myle of lengthe and a myle of breade.

"Item in Wyncull a comyne called the Hakesharte w^{h} is by estimacōn an halfe myle longe and three score rode of bredthe.

"Item that William Suttone has taken in an intake of the said comyn w^{h} conteyneth viij acres yeldinge to the Kynge therefore but iiij^{d}.

"Item the said William hath taken another intake in the said Hakesharte w^{h} conteyneth an acre.

"Item another comyn in Wyncull called the Swynhille w^{h} conteyneth by estimacōn a myle of lengthe and an half of bredthe.

"Item an intake taken in the sayd comyne nowe in the holdynge of Lawrence Wing w^{h} contayneth an acre, i^{d}.

Item an intake taken in of the sayd comyne now in the holdinge of Riē Cloye w^{h} is by estimacōn iiij acres, vij^{d}.

"Item an intake taken in of the Kynge comyne in Wyncull now in the holdinge of Williā Whattesone by estimacōn ij acres.

"Item William Watsone another intake in Wyncull w^{h} is by estimacōn an acre.

"Item two intackes in Wyncull now in the holdinge of Thomas Savage w^{h} are an acre and doe bylde thereon.

"Item an intacke in Wyncull now in y^e^ holdinge of Barlowe w^h^ is nighe an acre.

"*Idem* Barlowe an intacke in Wyncull on y^e^ comyne and a cote bulde one the same.

"Item an intacke in Wyncull nowe in y^e^ holdinge of William Clare w^h^ is new.

"Item William Sutton hath taken in a garden stydde in Wyncull and buyldeth houses on y^e^ Kinge comyne.

"Item the said William Sutton hath taken in an intacke in Wyncull on a comyne called Holmestone w^h^ conteyneth by estimacōn iij acres.

"Item a comyne called Holmestone w^h^ longethe to Wyncull & Sutton w^h^ comyne conteynethe by estimacōn the lengthe of two myles and the bredthe of a myle between the water of Dane and a place called the Nesfelle.

"Item Rauffe Hollenshed hath taken in an intacke in Sutton in a lane w^h^ is an acre w^h^ the highewaye is throwe.

"Item Ric̄ Joynsone hath taken in an intacke in Sutton in the same lane which is by estimacōn half an acre.

"Item Arnolde Deane hath taken in an intacke in Sutton w^h^ is by estimacōn the the third p^te^ of an acre.

"Item another comyne in Sutton called Sutton comyne w^h^ is by estimacōn in lengthe a myle and a quarter from a place called the Nesset to a place called tegg of Nase & brodthe a myle fro' the Rigge yate in the forrest to the ende of the Rigg.

"Item another comyne longynge to Maxfeld and to Raynowe w^h^ is by estimacōn in lengthe frō y^e^ Black Lowe to a place called the brinke a myle and in bredth frō y^e^ forrest syde to Macc̄ two myles.

"Item a comyne longynge to Raynowe w^h^ is by estimacōn two myles from a place called the brinke to a place called Harrope pasture & a myle and a halfe in bredthe.

"Item Humfrey Mainfold hath taken an intacke in Macc̄ in a place called the fletishereyde wiche is by estimacōn an acre.

"Item Renaulde Legge of Mottram Esquier hath taken in an

intacke wh is by estimacōn the thirde part of an acer, and the said intacke now lying out agayne was manye yeares in the holdinge of Jonsen Wilsone.

"Item a place called Longleye within Sutton wh is in the holdinge of John Creswall a barn and an house buylded on the Kynge Comyn.

"Item a comyne called Coryryge which belongeth to Ranowe and Bollington wh is by estimacō of length a myle of bredthe an halfe myle.

"Item a comyne longinge to Ranowe called Billinge and Billingward wh conteyneth in lengthe by estimacōn from a place called Holleyurst to the heighe way above Billinge good a myle and in bredth an half myle.

"Item Sir John Savage Knight hath taken an intacke out of the same Billingward which is by estimatō 8 acres 3 R.

"Item Roberte Shrigley hath taken at the same comyne two garden styddes and besydes that he buylt a little house on the same comyn.

"Item a comyn called Holleyurst beneathe that wh is enclosed Billinge wh is by estimacō of lengthe a quarter of a myle and bredthe a quarter of a myle.

"Item Roger Downes Esquire hath taken in three garden places in a comyn called Ordesell.

"Item the comyn called Lyme nowe in ye holdynge of Sir Peter Leygh wh conteyneth in lengthe two myles from a place called the Heayhough to the Bowstone and in bredth two myles from a place called the Edullyate to the Waterlowe. From a place called the Blackshawe within Lyme by estimacō in length a myle and in bredth an half myle.

"Item within the said Lyme be xviij comines and a parke and a manor place and a mylne.

"Item a comyn called Disselle longyng to Disley & Ocurley wh is by estimatō in lengthe a myle and a halfe and in bredthe a myle.

"Item an intacke in the same comyn by Sir Peter Legh

Knight now in the holdinge of Sir Ralfe Wyttle prieste of Disley and the wyfe of Oliver Hogkiston, vj and viij^{d}.

"Item an intacke of the said comyn called Ellebank by Sir John Savage Knight now in the holdinge of Richard Hill w^{h} is by estimacō 3 acres.

"Item an intacke by Richard Rodgge of Kettleshulme comyn w^{h} is an acre.

"Item Richard Hill hath taken in an intacke called Warden Place of the same comyn.

"Item George Dickson hath taken in two gardens by side of the same comyn and stopped the Kinges highewaye to the greate noyaunce of the Kinges people.

"Item a comyn longinge to Kettlesholme and Taxall called Yormom wood being after the water of Goyte w^{h} is by estimac̄n 3 acres and rented in the bownd of Kettlesholme to pay to the Kinge iij^{s}.

"Item a greate comyne longinge to Kettlesholme and Taxall w^{h} is by estimac̄ in lengthe a myle and in bredthe a myle.

"Item Raynalde Warington hath builded an house in the said comyn and taken in a garden stidd nowe in the holdinge of Edward Wilstune w^{h} payeth to the said Renaldo ij^{s}.

"Item Renauld Hanley hath an intake lying in his hough w^{h} is by estimacon 10 acres.

"Item a comyn called the Clyffe w^{h} is wood longinge to Pott Shrigley w^{h} is by estimacon in length between Harrope pasture and Berystall a quarter of a myle in lengthe in bredthe.

"Item a comyn longinge to Pott Shrigley called Potte Mow w^{h} is by estimacōn in lengthe a myle and in bredthe a myle.

"Item John Pott of Pott hath taken an intake of the said Pott Mow w^{h} is by estimac̄n . . . . . .

"Item the same John hath buylded an house and a barne in Pott on the Kynge comyn.

"Item a comyn longinge to Pott Shrigley called Kerridge & Arkehill w^{h} is by estimacō a quarter of a myle and in bredthe an hundred rodes.

"Item Roger Downes hath builded a hough & a barn in the holdinge of Richard Langley and taken in an intake of the said comyne.

"Item a comyn longinge to Pott Shrigley called the Longe syde which is wood and a lengthe by estimacon a half myle and in bredthe an half myle.

"Item Ronald Adsed hath builded an house & barn on the said comyn and taken in two garden stiddes now in the holdinge of Nicholas Adsed his sonne.

"Item a house & barne buylded in the comyn which house is called the Oxforthe w^h^ yeildeth to Pott and Taxall nearly 2^s^.

"Item Robert Shrigley hath taken in some intakes on a comyn called Carogye longinge to Bollington and builded a house and a chamber, the house in the holdinge of John Turn and the chamber in the holdinge of John Shryglege.

"Item W^m^ Aynsworth hath buylded on y^e^ same comyn an house and a barn, & taken in an acre of land, and a bore orchard w^h^ paye to the Kynge yearly 1^d^.

"Item Ronald Oldford hath taken in an intake in Sutton comyn w^h^ is by estimacō two acres.

"Item Sir Peter Legge hath a certayne house in Sutton called the Helefielde w^h^ is in the holdinge of Ralfe Hollenshed by the w^h^ Sir Peter clameth to be on the forreste of Macclesfelde & payeth to the said Sir Peter Legge by yeare xxvj^s^ & viij^d^.

"Item an intake taken in by the lord of Gowesworthe now in the holdinge of Katherin Lathum late wyfe of John Lathum by estimacō 8 acres.

"Item Wildborecloughe Harroppe Saltersford and Langside with haw in Crabers betwine the Earle of Darby and Christopher Savage.

"Item Roger Downes hath taken in dyvers intakes on the said Kynge comyn which amounteth to greate sumes to the said Roger behond w^h^ some cannot certainly be known without further proofe.

"Item John Sutton of Sutton hath taken many intakes within the said forrest which draweth to a great deale.

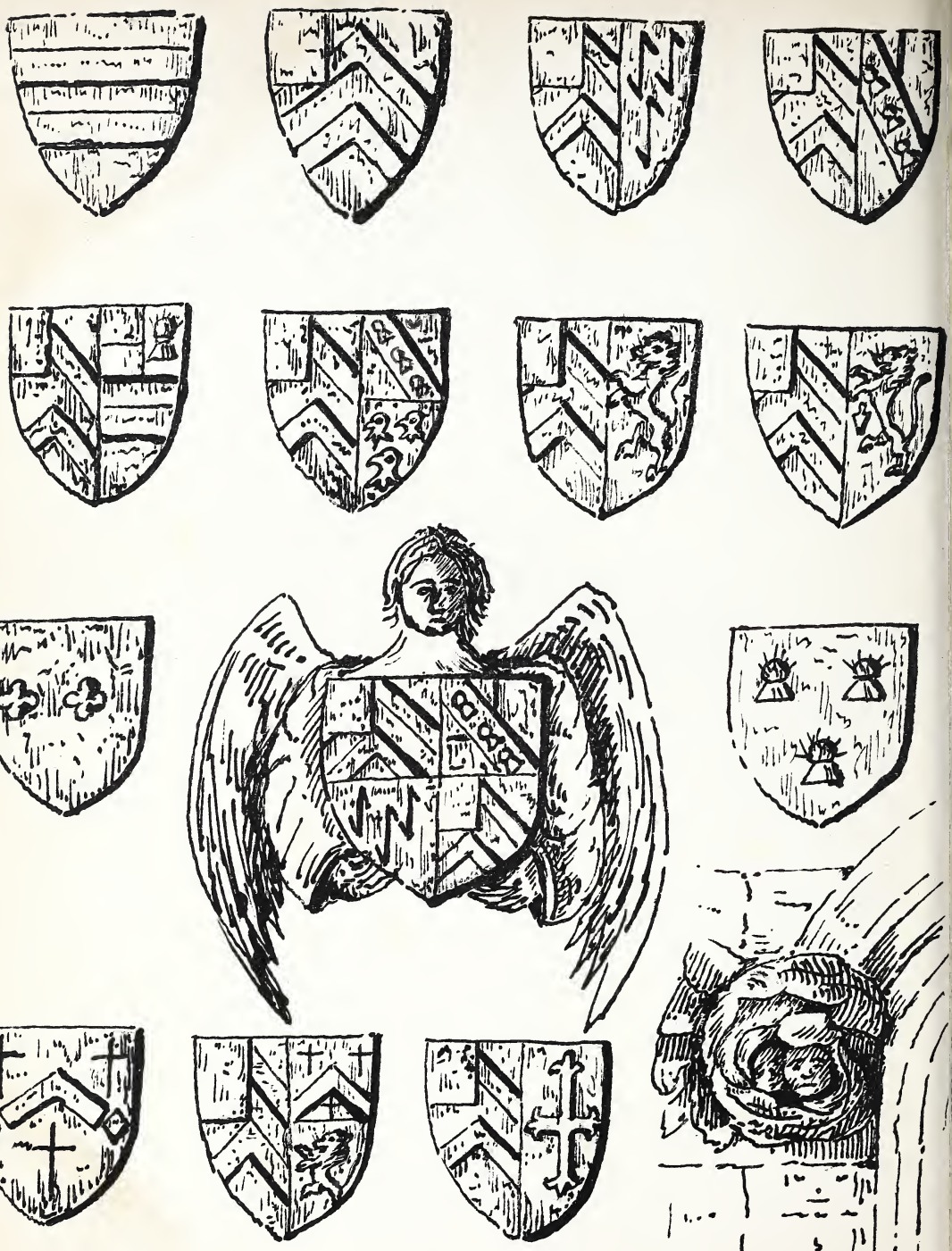
"Item Robert Shrigley . . . . . ."

(Here the record comes to an end.)

Macclesfield park was quite distinct from the forest. In the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries it belonged to the Savages of Rock Savage, and extended nearly a mile to the south and south-east of the town. (Corry's *Macclesfield*.) As late as 1817 some vestiges of an ancient castellated residence could be traced near the high-way between Macclesfield and Congleton, which belonged to the Savage family. In this house Archbishop Savage was born. It is the same park of which the Davenports were dispossessed in the days of the Norman earls of Chester. Now it is covered, for the most part, with streets and houses.

Swanscoe park, to the north-east of Macclesfield, is understood to have been the property of the Staffords, earls and dukes of Buckingham.

The arms of the forest of Macclesfield were argent, a chevron between three blowing horns sable.



Shields of Arms from Gawsworth Church Tower also Boss from ye Porch J.R. 1857.

HERALDIC SHIELDS ON GAWSWORTH CHURCH TOWER.

Gawsworth church and township, though not now considered an integral part of Prestbury parish, used formerly to be so classed; and, indeed, its situation and surroundings lead naturally to such a conclusion.

On the church tower fourteen shields of arms are carved in relief, on stone. Five are placed on the south side, four are placed on the west side, two are placed on the north side, and three are placed on the east side. Five shields are single, and nine shields are impaled. (See illustration.)

Low down, on the south aspect, two shields placed side by side bear respectively two bars, and two chevronels and a dexter canton. Higher up, beneath the belfry windows, there are three shields in a row, on each of which the chevronel coat is impaled with the following arms, viz., on the first three spades, on the second a bend charged with three garbs and a dexter canton, and on the third two bars and a canton sinister charged with a garb.

On the western side, and in a line parallel with the foregoing, are three shields on which the chevronel and canton coat is severally impaled with, first, a lion rampant; second, with two coats, viz., a bend charged with three garbs and a crescent for difference, and three birds heads erased; and third, a lion rampant, and a pheon.

Lower down, and ornamenting the corbel of a niche, is a coat of arms quarterly borne by an angel, viz., first and fourth the chevronel and canton coat, second a bend charged with three garbs and a dexter canton, and third three spades.

The two shields on the north side bear, first, two quatrefoils in fesse; and second a chevron humetté with two lozenges in fesse between three cross crosslets fitchée.

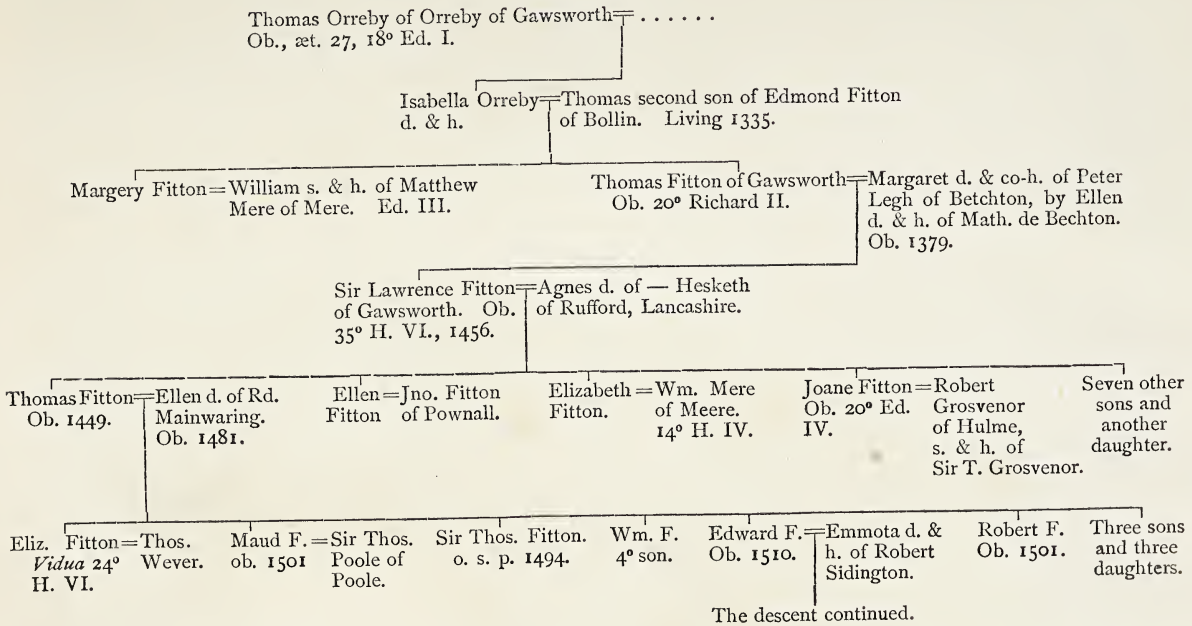
The three shields on the east side bear, first, the chevronel and

canton coat impaling a chevron between three cross crosslets fitchée, and a lion rampant; second, three garbs, two in chief and one in base; third, the chevronel and canton coat impaling a cross patonce.

The frequent repetition of the chevronel coat indicates that some portion of family history is intended to be pourtrayed, and that the founder of Gawsworth church bore these arms. The architectural details of the nave and tower show that it was built sometime about the reign of Henry VI. In addition to this, during repairs conducted a few years since, three frescoes were discovered on the walls, one of which represented St. George, wearing a *pointed* shoe, in the act of slaying the dragon.

In pursuing any inquiry touching the ownership of the above-named shields of arms, it is necessary to consult the pedigree of the mesne lords of Gawsworth during the middle of the 15th century.

The following extract is from Dr. Ormerod's "History of Cheshire."



The arms borne by Orreby of Gawsworth were argent, two chevrons and a canton gules. The arms borne by Fitton of Bollin were argent, a bend azure charged with three garbs or. When Thomas, the second son of Edmund Fitton of Bollin, married Isabel the daughter and heiress of Thomas Orreby of Gawsworth, he differenced his paternal arms by placing a dexter canton gules beneath the bend charged with garbs; in other words, he added the Orreby canton to the Fitton coat. From this time forward the Fittons of Gawsworth used the two shields of Orreby and Fitton differenced, interchangeably.

The arms of Bechton were azure, three betches, spades, or irons, or.

The arms of Mainwaring are argent, two bars gules.

Thus far, therefore, the Orreby, Fitton, and Bechton alliances are set forth on the quartered coat borne by the angel in accordance with the ordinary usages of heraldry, whilst the unimpaled shield of Mainwaring represents the alliance of Ellen Mainwaring with Thomas Fitton of Gawsworth.

The heraldic difficulty arises out of the five remaining impalements of Orreby (*i.e.*, Fitton of Gawsworth) with Fitton of Pownall, Grosvenor, Egerton, Davenport of Bramall, and Wever. These will be found to represent a singular and very interesting departure from the prescribed rules of heraldry, customary before the establishment of the Herald's college in the reign of Richard III., and absolutely fixed afterwards. In each instance the prescribed order has been reversed, the female members of the Fitton family having appropriated to themselves the dexter half of the shields and relegated their husbands to the sinister half. They represent, therefore, the alliances of four sisters of Thomas Fitton with their respective husbands, and the marriage of Elizabeth, the daughter of Thomas Fitton and Ellen Mainwaring, with Thomas Wever.

The key to the solution of the difficulty was found in a church note of Randle Holme's, quoted by Dr. Ormerod, in which he describes some painted glass formerly in a window of Gawsworth

church: "Two figures kneeling, the man in armour, surcoat emblazoned Pulford, the lady's mantle Fitton, chevron coat, and underneath 'orate p. a, i, a., d^ne^ Johanne Grosvenor qui istam fenestram fieri fecit.'"

As the arms of Pulford are sable a cross patonce argent, and as the above inscription identifies the bearing with R. Grosvenor, who married Joane Fitton, no room for doubt is left. Robert Grosvenor was son and heir of Ralph Grosvenor of Eaton, *jure uxoris*, and second son of Sir Thomas Grosvenor of Hulme.

The colours of the quartered coat of John Fitton of Pownall, to whom Ellen Fitton of Gawsworth was married, are argent on a bend azure, three garbs or, and a crescent sable for difference; and azure three birds' heads erased sable, beaked gules for Erdeswick. The conjoined arms represent the marriage of Richard Fitton of Bollin with Margaret daughter and heiress of John de Oulton of *Wrenbury*. The crescent in the Fitton coat marks descent from a second son thus:

Hugh Fitton second son of John Fitton, the first of Bollin. = Margaret d. & h. of Robert de Pownall.

Thomas Fitton of Bollin = Agnes d. of Minshull of Minshull.
Ob. 26° Rd. 2.

Richard Fitton of Bollin = Margaret d. and one of the heiresses of John de Oulton. Ob. 16 Hy. VI.

Richard Fitton of Pownall = Ellen d. of Sir Lawrence Fitton of Gawsworth.

This coat armour, which is marked as representing Erdeswick, is singular from the circumstance of colour being superimposed on colour, and it is somewhat obscure, as only a little information is to be obtained about it. In King's *Vale Royal* these arms are underwritten "Yardswick," the same as Erdeswick, whose coat is argent, on a chevron gules, five bezants; also or, a fess argent. The family derives from Vernon of Shipbrooke, who bore or, a

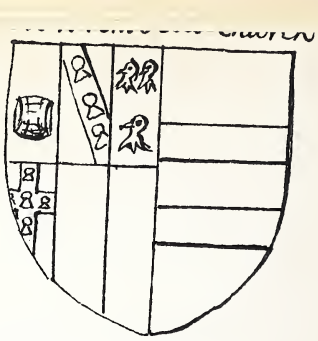
fess azure. In no other local history is the "Yardswick" coat of arms described as azure three birds' heads erased sable and beaked or.

The following notices, mainly gathered out of Dr. Ormerod's history, and the accompanying pedigree, may serve to make the subject clearer and more comprehensible. Matthew de Vernon was male ancestor of the Hulgreaves of Hulgreave, and of Erdeswick of Erdeswick. The Erdeswicks ceased to be a Cheshire family a long time ago, having settled at Sandon in Staffordshire as early as 12° Edward III. Warren de Vernon conveyed Sandon to Sir Richard Stafford, knight; and one of the Erdeswicks marrying a daughter descended from Sir Richard Stafford settled at Sandon. Erdeswick and Hulgreave are hamlets in Minshull Vernon, and the family of Erdeswick came from Hulgreave. Matthew de Hulgreave settled Erdeswick on his younger son Richard. About the year 1300 William de Minshull married Mabell daughter of Thomas de Erdeswick of Minshull. Again, William de Lecton, son of Adam, first lord of Leighton, granted to Randle de Aldington the entire lordship of Leighton village. This Randle passed over the whole manor to Lawrence Mainwaring, who, in the reign of Edward I., gave a moiety of the lordship and lands of this place to Randle de Oldington, and the other to Thomas de Erdeswick, in whose family the entire lordship became vested in 5° Edward II., when John the son of R. Oldington gave to Thomas the son of Thomas de Erdeswick his moiety in exchange for lands in Minshull Vernon and Erdeswick.

Williamson *(Vill. Cest.)* says that in 1328 Thomas de Erdeswick quit claimed to Randle son of John de Oldington all the right he had to lands in Erdeswick, Minshull Vernon, and La Lowe, which he gave in exchange to him for lands in Leighton. Leighton, Erdeswick, Hulgreave, and Minshull are adjacent places.

King *(Vale Royal)* speaks of them as follows: "And here we must step over the water of Weever, at Minshull Bridge, where again another branch of the same Minshulls have an ancient

in Wilm'slow Ch: Cheshire, one of which yet remains, & the other is preserved in Bostock's Ch: Collns Harl. M.S.S.



Randle de Oulding'ton = ...

Rich.d de O. = ...

Jno. de O. = ... d. & Coh. of Wm de Leighton

Iohn de Wrenbury = Ioanna ...

14° Ed. 3

John de Oldington

Randle de Oldington = Agnes eldest d. & Coh. of I. de Wrenbury

Thos. Fitton of Bollin 20. R. 2. = Agnes d. of Minshull of Minshull.

Jno de oulton of oulton Yardswick and Wrenbury = Peterina sister & Coh. of Rd Cradock Kt.

Lawrence Fitton

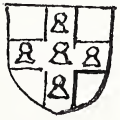
Eleanor eldest d. & Coh. Md. Tho.s 5th Son of Tho. Starkey of Stretton.

Johanna 2d. d. & Coh. Md. Peter 2d son of Tho. Starkey of Stretton

Margaret 3rd d. & Coh. of Jno de oulton = Richard Fitton of Bollin

Oliver Newton = alice d. & Coh. of Wm Milton of Milneton

ob. 31. H. 6



Jno. Fitton of Pownall = Ellen Fitton of Gawsworth.

Tho. Fitton of Pownall = Cecily d. of Sir Hugh Mainwaring of Croxton ob. 23. H. 7.

newton Robt Rich.d Newton = Jane Lowe of Denby

Humfrey Newton = Ellen d. & Coh. of Tho. Fitton of Pownall 1490

James S. & h. of Ch. Mainwaring of Croxton. o. s. p. = Margaret d. & Coh. of I. Fitton = Wm minshull of Erdeswick. 2d. Husband

inheritance, and a fair house and domain called Erdeswick, from whence we must go more southerly to Leighton, where you shall find a fair seat of the ancestors of the Erdeswicks, no doubt deriving the name from the place above-mentioned, but now grown to a race of great worship, whose chief residence is at Sand (Sandon) in Staffordshire."

Incomplete though this evidence may be, it nevertheless serves to associate the families of Oulton and Erdeswick; and although the shield bearing the three birds' heads is not at the present time a cognisance of the Erdeswicks, it was appropriated by them in earlier days, as King's drawing shows. It seems to be a manorial coat representing Erdeswick, which manor passed to the Oultons, in exchange for other lands; and, along with it, the right to quarter the arms.

In other words, the entire Erdswick manor came to Randle de Oldington, who married the heiress of John de Wrenbury (*vide* pedigree attached) by an exchange which seems to have been effected through Randle's father's marriage with the heiress of Leighton.

It may be read as follows: One half of Leighton came by gift to Randle Oldington or Oulton (first on pedigree) and remained unaltered during the life-time of his son Richard. The whole was alienated to Thomas the son of Thomas de Erdeswick, during the life of John de Oldington (third on pedigree). It was repossessed in its entirety by Randle de Oldington, who married the heiress of Wrenbury, against whose name the arms of "Yardswick" are placed. Lastly, it descended to John de Oulton, who was the great great grandson of Randle the first-named on the accompanying pedigree.

This John de Oulton, lord of Oulton, Yardswick, and Wrenbury, left three daughters, co-heiresses, one of whom, by marriage with Richard Fitton of Bollin, brought the bearing in question, together with those of Wrenbury and Oulton, into the Fitton shield. These quarterings may still be seen in the stained glass of Wilmslow church, where the arms of Newton, with six

quarters, impale the arms of Mainwaring of Peover. The fifth and sixth quarterings have been destroyed, but their absence is supplied by a drawing made by Bostock, and preserved amongst the *Harleian MSS.* The drawing is underwritten "Arma de Newtoun in the churche of Wembeslowe, 1572," and the quarterings are rendered as, one Newtoun, two Fitton, three Ravenscroft, four Mylneton, five Oulton, six Wrenbury. The pedigree explains in what manner the family of Newton of Pownall became entitled to bear the Fitton quarterings on their shield of arms.

The shield on the church tower impaling, first, argent a chevron between three cross crosslets sable, and, second, sable a lion rampant or, stands for the marriage of Agnes Fitton with Robert Davenport of Bramall, as appears in the pedigree of the latter. He died 15° Henry VI., and she 18° Edward IV. The lion rampant in the Davenport coat represents Richard Bromehall, whose daughter and heiress was married to John the second son of Thomas Davenport of Wheltrough, 22° Edward III.

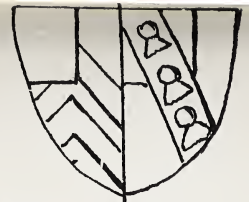
The shield with the Wever impalement, viz., sable, two bars argent, on a canton of the last a garb of the first, represents the marriage of Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas and Ellen Fitton with Thomas Wever. She died, a widow, in 24° Henry VI.

Thus, it is made manifest that the marriages of four daughters of Sir Lawrence Fitton, and of one granddaughter, are displayed in this singular manner, whilst, by a parity of reasoning, it is plain that the marriage of Isabel daughter and heiress of Thomas Orreby with Thomas the second son of Edmund Fitton of Bollin is intended to be set forth on the shield where Orreby of Gawsworth is impaled with Fitton of Gawsworth. (See illustration.)

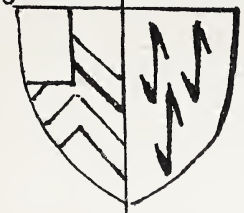
There are yet two Fitton impalements, one with a lion rampant and the other with a lion rampant and a pheon. The first I am unable to decipher, and it probably points to the alliance with one of the sons unnamed in the Fitton pedigree. The other indicates the marriage of Margaret Fitton (the unnamed daughter in the Fitton pedigree) with Sir John Egerton of Egerton, knight, who was killed at the battle of Blore Heath in 38° Henry VI.

of Botlin.

Gawsworth.

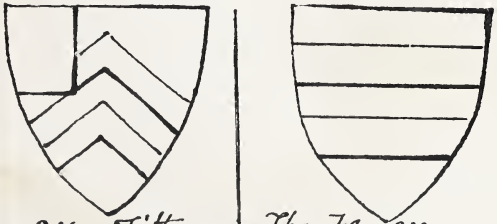


Thos. Fitton of Gawsworth, ob. 1405 = Mary d. & h. of Peter Legh of Bechton.



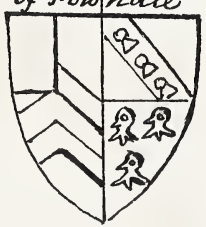
Sir Lawrence Fitton of Gawsworth. ob. 145[illegible] = Agnes d. of .... Hesketh of Rufford.

Thos. Fitton of Gawsworth ob. 1449 = Ellen Mainwaring. ob. 1481.

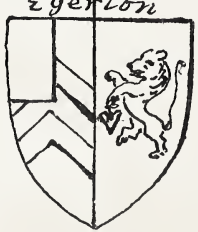


Ellen Fitton Vidua 1445 = Tho. Wever of Wever.

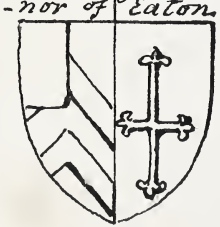
Ellen m. sir J. Fitton of Pownall



Margt. m. sir John Fitton Egerton



Joane m. Rob. Fitton -nor of Grosve- Eaton



Agnes m. Rob. Fitton of Bramall. Davenport

Family alliances heraldically displayed by the Armorial Shields on Gawsworth Church Tower, Cheshire.

In Dr. Ormerod's pedigree of Egerton of Egerton, Margaret is called the daughter of Sir John Fitton. This shield shows that she was the daughter of Sir Lawrence Fitton.

The shield bearing three garbs is that of Randle Blundeville, sixth earl of Chester, to whom the Fittons are always supposed to have been related, and to whose armorial device their own is assimilated.

The shield with two quatrefoils in fess stands for Rode of Odd Rode, the predecessor of the Wilbrahams in that estate, situate only a few miles distant from Gawsworth. The reading is, argent two quatrefoils vert in fess, a chief sable. In Flower's *Visitation*, 1580 *(Harleian MSS.)*, the shield is drawn with the quatrefoils slipped.

The remaining shield represents the long extinct family of Greenway of Biddulph. Some tiles at Biddulph hall may yet be seen with this singular device on them, impaling a saltire engrailed. It is drawn by Randle Holme *(Harleian MSS.)* as argent three crosslets between a chevron debruized sable, and underwritten "Greenway." On Gawsworth church tower this shield has, in addition, two lozenges in fess. The name Greenway is associated with an ancient road-side cross called "Greenway cross," placed at the summit of "Greenway bank," between Macclesfield and Wildboarclough. It is a rough unhewn stone, with a Latin cross carved on the summit, and stands about six feet out of the ground. Old tradition points to this venerable relic as being one of those "plague crosses" to which country people brought food and other necessaries of life to the inhabitants of Macclesfield, during one or more of those visitations of plague to which the town was subjected during the 16th and 17th centuries. (See p. 74.)

This singular collection of armorial shields not only illustrates a period of local family history, but serves to date the exact time when the nave and tower of Gawsworth church were built, the choir and the south porch being subsequent erections.

With the exception of the shield appropriated to Randle

Blundeville, all appertain to the founders and contributors to the building. Rode of Rode, and Greenway of Biddulph, are the only two contributors outside the family of Fitton of Gawsworth. The impaled shields of Orreby and Fitton, of Orreby and Bechton, and the quarterly coat supported by the angel, are to be viewed as family cognizances. The rest represent members of the family, then living, and married. The shields bearing the arms of Fitton of Gawsworth, and Mainwaring, side by side, point to the founders, and show also that the nave and tower were built during the life-time of Sir Lawrence Fitton, and after the demise of his wife Agnes (Hesketh of Rufford), as otherwise the Rufford arms would have been displayed, as at Macclesfield. They collectively show that the work was begun and finished before the marriage of Edward Fitton with the heiress of Robert Siddington, else this alliance would have been added to that of Wever, the more surely so as it was never afterwards omitted from the Fitton quarterings.

As Sir Lawrence Fitton's wife was living in 1415 (*vide* Macclesfield church tower), and as Ellen Wever was a widow in 1446, it is moderately certain that Gawsworth church tower was built some time intermediate between these two dates, probably between 1420 and 1430.

A corbel on the west side of the south porch of Gawsworth church is wrought out as a Tudor rose, within the petals of which two faces are concealed, typifying the union of the houses of York and Lancaster under Henry VII. (See illustration.) This small architectural and ecclesiological curiosity shows that the south porch was a later addition.

The monuments to different members of the Fitton family within the church have already been described in Dr. Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, and elsewhere. Nothing therefore need here be said of them further than that, a few years ago, when the church underwent a process of restoration, some were removed from their original positions, and others were shorn of their stately alabaster canopies and heraldic adornments.

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